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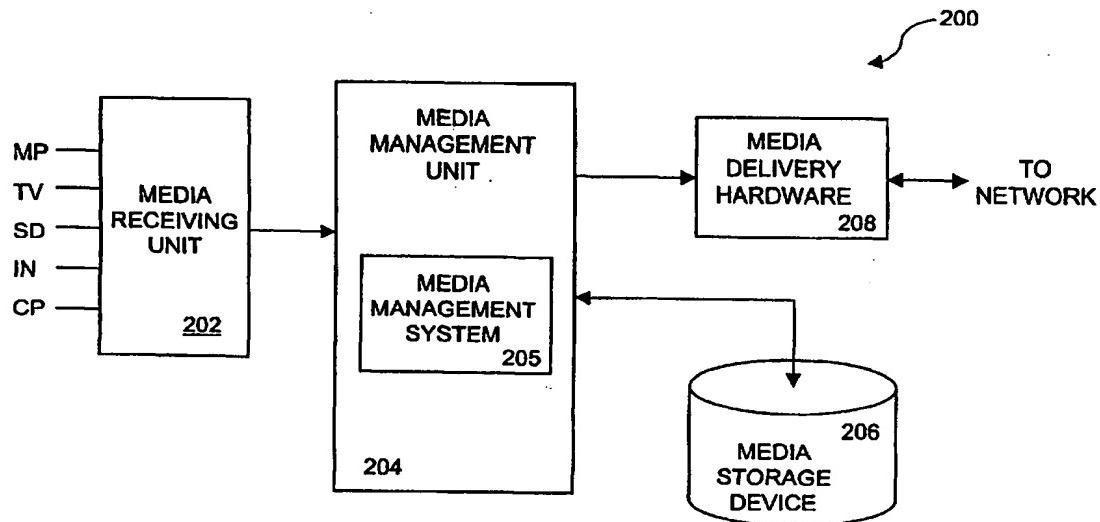
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DELIVERING MEDIA SERVICES AND APPLICATIONS OVER NETWORKS



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(57) Abstract: A media system that centrally manages and stores media contents and also controls the delivery of media content to subscribers is disclosed. According to one aspect, an administrator can control program scheduling, rates, service packages and system configuration for a media delivery system. Additionally, the administrator may also control billing, transaction monitoring, and customer relations. According to another aspect, the media delivery system provides subscribers with centrally managed storage for paused or recorded media. Still another aspect is that the media delivery system can restrict various administrators to different modules of the media delivery system.



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**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DELIVERING MEDIA SERVICES AND
APPLICATIONS OVER NETWORKS
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the Invention

5 The present invention is generally related to media broadcasting and, more particularly, to multimedia delivery systems for delivering media to subscribers over networks.

2. Description of the Related Art

10 The Internet is a rapidly growing communication network of interconnected computers around the world and is penetrating into every household in the United States and many other countries in the world. Together, these millions of connected computers form a vast repository of multimedia information that is readily accessible by users through any of the connected computers from anywhere at anytime. Multimedia information that is commonly available and deliverable via the Internet may 15 include text information, images (or graphics), video and audio.

Continuous media information such as video and audio content are often the most demanded resources over the Internet. Delivery of such information over the Internet provides many advantages and benefits that cannot be matched by current television cable systems or broadcasting over the air. Given the vast accessibility of 20 the Internet to the general population, many service providers or content providers are starting to broadcast continuous media programs over the Internet.

Users are, however, overwhelmed with the numerous media programs available through the Internet, cable or satellite systems. Recently, localized media service providers have consolidated some of the available programs and redelivered them with locally composed programs to their subscribers as value added services providers. One of the problems the media service providers face is how to efficiently control delivery and management of media services given the many variations that are presented. Media programs are typically received at media service providers from different sources and in different formats. For example, media programs can be 25 received from the s transmissions, the over-the-air broadcasting, the wired cable systems, or private or public networks. The sources may include analog or digital formats. Examples of the digital formats are MPEG (e.g., MPEG1, MPEG2, MPEG4, MPEG7), QuickTime, and the like). Delivering media programs to subscribers when these programs are received in different forms from various different sources poses 30 tremendous challenges to the media service providers. At the same time, the end playing equipment has to be sophisticated enough to accommodate all forms of 35

incoming media signals. As a result, many existing service providers can only provide limited media programs and services to its subscribers.

Generally, the media service providers have to be equipped with many different media management tools to manage, schedule, and deliver the media programs from the various different sources, and thus presents significant overhead and complications to the service provider. In addition, different media service providers desire to provide different programming to their own subscribers. Further, a media service provider may desire to deliver different programming to different sets of subscribers. For example, a media service provider might desire to deliver digital media programs to employees in a corporation while, at the same time, desire to deliver cable television (TV) programs to homes. Generally, two different conventional media management systems are needed to manage and deliver such different media programs. Moreover, whenever there is a change to the services being provided or the format of the media being received or delivered, the media management systems would have to be reconfigured and possibly with new equipment added. The lack of flexibility in configuration and management of conventional media management systems has significantly hindered the ability of the server providers to provide programs in various forms over different mediums and flexible customer service packages.

Thus, there is a need for improved approaches to configuration, management and operation of a media delivery system.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Broadly speaking, the invention relates to improved approaches to configuration, management and operation of a media delivery system. The media delivery system centrally manages and stores media content and also controls the delivery of media content to subscribers.

According to one aspect of the invention, an administrator can control program scheduling, rates, service packages and system configuration for a media delivery system as well as provide access control to subscriber accounts by corresponding subscribers for desired selected services. Additionally, the administrator may also control billing, transaction monitoring, and customer relations. According to another aspect of the invention, the media delivery system provides subscribers with centrally managed storage for paused or recorded media. Still another aspect of the invention is that the media delivery system can restrict various administrators to different modules of the media delivery system. Yet another aspect of the invention is that

services provided by the media delivery system can be restricted differently for different users of a common subscriber account.

The invention can be implemented in numerous ways, including as a method, system, device, or computer readable medium. Several embodiments of the invention
5 are discussed below.

As a media delivery center for delivery of media to users over a network, one embodiment of the invention includes at least: a media receiving unit, the media receiving unit being configured to receive media from one or more media sources; a media storage device, the media storage device being configured to store at least certain of the media being received by the media receiving unit; a media management unit operatively connected to the media receiving unit and the media storage device, the media management unit being configured to manage reception of the media from the one or more media sources, storage of at least the certain of the media in the media storage device, scheduling delivery of media from the media storage device to users; and media delivery hardware operatively connecting the media management unit to the network to facilitate the delivery of media from the media storage device to users.
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As a method for delivery media content from a central location to multiple subscribers, one embodiment of the invention includes at least the operations of:
20 configuring subscribers to receive delivery of media content; setting service packages and pricing options make available to users; storing the media content for various television programs or movies in a central media store; multicasting or unicasting certain of the stored media content to one or more of the subscribers.

As a method for delivery media programs from a central location to multiple subscribers, another embodiment of the invention includes at least the operations of:
25 configuring subscribers to receive delivery of a selected set of the media programs over a network, wherein the media programs are received from different sources and different formats; setting service packages respectively for each of the users; reformatting the media programs to one or more predefined formats suitable for
30 transporting over the network; storing the media programs in a central media store; and delivering a selected set of the media programs in the central media store over the network to one or more of the subscribers.

As a media delivery center for delivery of media to users over a network, one embodiment of the invention includes: a media receiving unit, the media receiving unit being configured to receive the media in a first format from one or more media sources; a media platform, coupled to the media receiving unit and receiving the
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- media therefrom, transforming the media a second format suitable for transporting over the network; a media storage device coupled to the media platform, the media storage device being configured to store at least certain of the transformed media from the media platform; and a media management server, coupled to the media platform,
- 5 configured to control the media platform how to transform the received media in the first format to the second format so that the transformed media can be optimally delivered over the network to the users.

The advantages of the invention are numerous. Different embodiments or implementations may yield one or more of the following advantages. One advantage
10 of the invention is that a media system has integrated various services for the benefit of administrators and service providers. Another advantage of the invention is that the media system has a flexible design that can be customized to fit service providers business needs. Still another advantage of the invention is that the media system is a centralized system that can support both live and on-demand services for many
15 subscribers. Yet another advantage of the invention is that the media system has a flexible design that can enable subscribers to customized their program guides, services packages (including pause and record services), and the like.

Other aspects and advantages of the invention will become apparent from the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings
20 which illustrate, by way of example, the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will be readily understood by the following detailed description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings, wherein like reference numerals designate like structural elements, and in which:

25 FIG. 1A illustrates a media delivery system in which the invention can be practiced;

FIG. 1B is a block diagram of a data delivery system according to one embodiment of the invention;

30 FIG. 2A is a block diagram of a media delivery center according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 2B shows an exemplary storage configuration to facilitate the efficient operations of the media delivery center;

FIG. 2C shows a corresponding cache memory configuration for rolling feeding four live broadcasts;

35 FIG. 2D shows an undated cache memory configuration due to a new live broadcast being fed into the cache memory;

FIG. 2E shows a process flowchart of dynamically reconfiguring the cache memory so that a replay of any portion of the cached programs becomes possible;

FIG. 3A is a block diagram of a media system according to one embodiment of the invention;

5 FIG. 3B is a block diagram of a VNP device that is alternatively referred to as a codec or simply encoding device;

FIGs. 3C-3F show respectively exemplary interactive screen shots from which an operator can manage/control the operations of VNP devices employed in a medial delivery center;

10 FIG. 3G shows an architecture of a VNP device according to one embodiment;

FIG. 3H shows a data flow in a transcoder implemented in a VNP device;

FIG. 4A is a block diagram of a media receiving unit according to one embodiment of the invention;

15 FIG. 4B shows a reception and encoding process according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 5A is a block diagram of a media management unit according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 5B illustrates an exemplary program guide according to one embodiment of the invention;

20 FIG. 5C shows a flowchart of the program guide processing according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of media delivery hardware according to one embodiment of the invention;

25 FIG. 7A is a block diagram of a media delivery center according to another embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 7B shows a flowchart of a server-side bookmark list process according to one embodiment of the invention;

FIG. 7C shows a flowchart of a client-side video library process according to one embodiment;

30 FIGs. 8A - 8E illustrate a series of screens associated with a system setup module;

FIGs. 9A - 9F illustrate a series of screens associated with a service and pricing module;

35 FIGs. 10A - 10E illustrate a series of screens associated with a stored asset management module;

FIGs. 11A – 11G illustrate a series of screens associated with a live asset management module;

FIGs. 12A – 12H illustrate a series of screens associated with a customer management module;

5 FIGs. 13A – 13C illustrate a series of screens associated with a device module;

FIGs. 14A – 14C illustrate a series of screens associated with a billing module;

FIGs. 15A – 15F illustrate a series of screens associated with a representative subscriber-client user interface;

10 FIG. 16A shows a function block diagram of a media management system accordingly to one embodiment of the invention and may be understood in conjunction with exemplary screens illustrated in FIGs. 8A - 14C;

FIG. 16B shows a relationship between an adult account and two sub-accounts under a general account; and

15 FIG. 16C show an exemplary library index list of the vault information for a sub-account holder and being displayed on a client machine.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to improved approaches to management and operation of a media delivery system. The media delivery system centrally manages and stores media content and also controls the delivery of media content to subscribers.

20 According to one aspect of the invention, the media delivery system can receive media programs in different forms and be configured to redeliver the media programs to its subscribers in one or more predefined forms suitable to subscriber's needs, delivery mediums and other factors. According to another aspect of the invention, the media delivery system can be readily configured to meet the needs and 25 business objectives of a media service provider. For example, an administrator can control program scheduling, rates, service packages and system configuration for a media delivery system. Additionally, the administrator may also control billing, transaction monitoring, and customer relations.

According to still another aspect of the invention, the media delivery system 30 can be configured to deliver Internet services and provide a mechanism for subscribers to navigate the vast resources available on the Internet and exchange audio/video/text/image (e.g., via electronic mails) with others. Still another aspect of the invention is that the media delivery system can receive commercial information and can be configured to customize the commercial information for delivery to suitable 35 subscribers. For example, the system can be configured to incorporate commercial information with a particular program being viewed to create an impulsive sale

opportunity. Further, the popularity of a program among its subscribers can be reported by the system to the producer of the program by monitoring and analyzing respective status of each of the subscribers.

- According to still another aspect of the invention, the media delivery system
- 5 provides subscribers with centrally managed storage for paused or recorded media so that a subscriber can subsequently retrieve the retained media from any device that can be configured to access to the system. Still another aspect of the invention is that the media delivery system can provide different level of services to designated accounts in a general account so that miners assigned to the designated accounts will
- 10 access only appropriate services while adults under the general account receive full services and possibly monitor the designated accounts. Yet another aspect of the invention is that services provided by the media delivery system can be restricted differently for different users of a common subscriber account.

- The detailed description of the invention is presented largely in terms of
- 15 procedures, steps, logic blocks, processing, and other symbolic representations that directly or indirectly resemble the operations of data processing devices coupled to networks. These process descriptions and representations are typically used by those skilled in the art to most effectively convey the substance of their work to others skilled in the art. Reference herein to "one embodiment" or "an embodiment" means that a
- 20 particular feature, structure, or characteristic described in connection with the embodiment can be included in at least one embodiment of the invention. The appearances of the phrase "in one embodiment" in various places in the specification are not necessarily all referring to the same embodiment, nor are separate or alternative embodiments mutually exclusive of other embodiments. Further, the order
- 25 of blocks in process flowcharts or diagrams representing one or more embodiments of the invention do not inherently indicate any particular order nor imply any limitations in the invention.

- Embodiments of this aspect of the invention are discussed below with reference to FIGs. 1A – 16C. However, those skilled in the art will readily appreciate
- 30 that the detailed description given herein with respect to these figures is for explanatory purposes as the invention extends beyond these limited embodiments.

- FIG. 1A illustrates a media delivery system 100 in which the invention can be practiced. Media contents are provided by one or more media sources (content providers or producers) 102. Examples of media sources include broadcast stations,
- 35 satellite receivers, television relay stations, and Internet sites that provide continuous media data over the Internet. The media delivery system 100 comprises one or more

servers 106 coupled together, of which only one is shown in FIG. 1A. The server 106, typically operated by, a service provider, IP media provider, broadcaster or a media deliver center, can also be referred to as media head-ends. The server 106 can provide continuous media services, such as live transmission, video-on-demand and 5 audio-on-demand, to its subscribers. The server 106 can also provide video/audio mail services, Internet access, and commercial information to its subscribers.

To facilitate the description of the invention, it is assumed below that the media source 102 delivers video programs and the server 106 is configured to provide video services to its subscribers (users). As noted above, it should be recognized that the 10 media source 102 is not limited to delivering or supplying video programs. Those skilled in the art will understand that the description herein can be equally applied to other continuous media forms.

The server 106 communicates with the media source 102 through a delivery agent 104. Depending on implementation, the delivery agent 104 can, for example, 15 represent a receiver, a data network, a transcoder (encoder and decoder), or a converter. When the media source 102 is a satellite dish, a broadcasting or relay station, then the delivery agent 104 includes a receiver which receives television (TV) signals that are often in a form that may need to be processed by a transcoder. Generally, such TV signals are in an analog format. Hence, the delivery agent 104 20 can include an encoder that digitizes the TV signals and converts the digitized TV signals to a digital format so that the signals can be further processed, stored, and redelivered over a network 108.

On the other hand, when the media source 102 is a network video resource over a data network (e.g., the Internet), the delivery agent 104 may be simply part of 25 the data network or may include a converter. Sometimes, a network video resource provided by a service or content provider is in a different form than the one used by the media deliver center to deliver the program to its subscribers. For example, a program received from the producer is in MPEG 2 while the redelivery format is in MPEG 2 or 4 and thus the received program may/may not be converted depending on the version of 30 the MPEG format.

As described above, the media source 102 may take one of the many available video resources and supply it to the server 106 in an appropriate format via the delivery agent 104. In the following description, unless otherwise specifically required, the server 106 receives one or more appropriate video sources, typically in digital 35 format, via the delivery agent 104 from the media source 102.

The network 108 couples the server 106 to a terminal device 110. The network 108, also referred to herein as a communication medium or a subscriber channel, can be part of a larger network including the Internet, the public switch telephone network (PSTN) or a private telephone network, a public/private data network, or a wireless network. Through the network 108, the terminal device 110 can receive video services provided by the server 106. Although only one terminal device 110 (also referred to as client machine) is illustrated in FIG. 1A, it should be understood that the server 106 typically supports many terminal devices 110 of subscribers. Examples of the terminal device 110 may include a desktop computer, a laptop or notebook computer, a set-top box, and a mobile device. In one embodiment, the terminal device 110 (utilized by one or more subscribers or users) can be coupled to the network 108 by way of a circuit-switched or packet-switched connection. The network 108 can use one or more different transmission mediums, such as a telephone network, a broadband network (e.g., ATM or SONET, optical, xDSL or copper wiring), etc. It is, however, useful that the transmission mediums have high bandwidths to support delivery of media-rich content and the quality of service (QoS) thereof.

FIG. 1B is a block diagram of a data delivery system 150 according to one embodiment of the invention. The data delivery system 150 can represent one embodiment of the media delivery system 100 illustrated in FIG. 1A. The data delivery system 150 includes a video delivery center 152 that controls the delivery of video content. The video delivery center 152 receives media-rich broadcasts, such as television or video, from various sources. As shown in FIG. 1B, the video delivery center 152 can receive local TV broadcasts 154 and satellite broadcasts 156. The video delivery center 152 can also receive commercial information 158 that may be in video, audio or images forms. In addition, the video delivery center 152 can couple to the Internet 158 and thereby also receive Internet broadcasts at the video delivery center 152. Regardless of the sources of the media-rich broadcasts or programs received therefrom, the media-rich content (e.g., video content) thereof is stored in the video delivery center 152. If desired, the media-rich broadcasts or programs can be initially converted, if required, to one or more predefined formats and stored in the video delivery center 152, preferably in a digital form. Depending on an agreement between the video delivery center 152 and the producers of the programs, the retention of the programs in the video delivery center 152 may be based on a rolling feeding, temporary catching or long-term storage, which will be further explained below. According to one embodiment, the video delivery center 152 operates to receive the different types of broadcasts and to formulate them into digital content data

that is subsequently streamed as scheduled or on-demand broadcasts to various clients.

To distribute the scheduled or on-demand programs from the video delivery center 152, the video delivery center 152 couples through a broadband local loop 160 to client machines 162 and 164. Although only two client machines 162 and 164 are shown in FIG. 1B, the video delivery center 152 can support many client machines. Examples of client machines include personal computers, portable computers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), set-top boxes, hand-held computers, etc. In one embodiment, the video delivery center 152 is provided in a local region and able to couple to the broadband local loop 160 and thus has access to the client machines 162 and 164. The broadband local loop 160 offers broadband network access between the video delivery center 152 and the client machines 162 and 164. For example, the broadband local loop 160 can use one or more of xDSL, ATM, SONET, fiber optic lines, PSTN, or CAT-5. Similarly, the video delivery center 152 can also receive videos from one or more the client machines and forward the videos to destinations specified by the user. Further, the video delivery center 152 can permit the users to navigate the resources over the Internet.

FIG. 2A is a block diagram of a media delivery center 200 according to one embodiment of the invention. The media delivery center 200 represents the principal, centrally-located components of the media system. The media delivery center 200 includes a media receiving unit 202 that receives incoming media content from various media sources. The media sources include, but are not limited to, a media provider (MP), a television (TV) broadcast, a satellite dish (SD), the Internet (IN), and a commercial provider (CP). The media receiving unit 202 operates to receive the media content from the various media sources and perform encoding and/or transformation operations to present the media content in a digital form in accordance with a communication protocol used for communications between the media delivery center 200 and the client machines. Typically, the resulting media content is in a digital format that may be one of various compressed formats (i.e., MPEG).

The media delivery center 200 also includes a media management unit 204. The media management unit 204 receives the digital media content from the media receiving unit 202 and serves to manage the delivery and storage of the media content through use of a media management system 205. The media management unit 204 can support live delivery, Near Video On-Demand (NVOD) delivery, or Media On-Demand (MOD) to subscribers over a network. In this regard, the media management unit 204 can store media content in a media storage device 206. In one embodiment,

the media storage device 206 is a file server or a large database. In another embodiment, the media storage device 206 is a video server. The media content stored in the media storage device 206 can be streamed or delivered to subscribers over the network by media delivery hardware 208. As noted above, the media content 5 can be streamed or delivered as live, nearly on-demand, or on-demand. The media delivery hardware 208 can stream or deliver the media content to subscribers over the network using one or more of unicast, multicast and broadcast approaches.

The media management unit 204 can also be readily configured by a media service provider (e.g., administrator or operator) to meet its own needs and business 10 objectives. An administrator can configure the channels, rates, schedules and the like for the overall media system. As will be further described below, the administrator through interaction with the media management system 205 can place certain programs in a set of predefined channels, manage program schedule, package different service packages, administrate subscriber accounts, monitor popularity of 15 certain programs, manage proper delivery of commercial information related to programs or subscribers, etc. In other words, the media management unit 204 allows an administrator of the media system to customize the media system to their particular business needs. Hence, the media delivery center 200 allows for the providing and management of media services to subscribers over the network.

20 The media storage device 206 facilitates the operations of the media delivery center by providing storage space to cache or store the video sources received from the media receiving unit 202. The storage spaces may include a cluster of video servers or stacks of optical or magnetic storage discs, each being labeled accordingly and accessible when contents stored therein are to be delivered. FIG. 2B shows one 25 configuration of a media storage 220 in which a cache area 222, a temporary space 224, a permanent storage space 226, a rental space 228 and a recording space 230 are respectively allocated. The cache area 222 provides a mechanism to buffer the received live video broadcasts (i.e., live assets) for broadcasting to subscribers of the video delivery center. The temporary space 224 provides spaces for the video delivery 30 center to store data for temporary uses, such as a short-term program guide, commercial information, latest programs available for video-on-demand, or any programs that will be deleted after broadcast. The permanent space 226 is typically used by the video delivery center to store assets owned by the video delivery center, the assets may include purchased movies or other videos available to the subscribers 35 for a fee. To provide the flexible use of the services, the rental space 228 is provided to certain subscribers for their own use and storage of content therein. Examples of

- the uses of the personalized rental space may include temporary storage of a paid movie that can be made available by the subscriber and/or his/her designated viewers, a personal video library, a personal journal, a calendar, address books and video bookmarks. The recording space 230 is reserved for some programs that may be
- 5 popular among subscribers. For later retrieval or viewing of the programs, some of the subscribers may request a part or whole of the programs be recorded (e.g., through pause or record requests). To efficiently use the storage 220, the recording space 230 is storing such programs for a limited time, typically charging a fee for the use of the space.
- 10 Sometimes a viewer wants to review a certain past portion of a live program being broadcast. To facilitate the replay of a past portion of a live program that is being broadcast or an entire live program that has already been broadcast, a portion of the cache area 222 can be configured to dynamically fit the length of a plurality of programs. FIG. 2C shows that a cache memory portion 240 of the cache area 222 can be dynamically configured to accommodate each of programs being cached according to one embodiment of the invention. While the cache area 222 is receiving the live feed (broadcast) from the media receiving unit 202, depending on the length of each of the programs, the cache memory portion 240 is intelligently segmented to buffer content (data) of the programs as it arrives. As shown in FIG. 2C, according to one example, there are four programs P1, P2, P3 and P4 being cached while the program P4 is in progress of being broadcast. The memory spaces 242, 244, 246 and 248 are respectively allocated to buffer the entire programs P1, P2, P3 and P4. If a user desires to roll back (i.e., replay) any of the programs, the memory portion 240 can provide the data to be transmitted to the user such that the user can view the programs offset from its broadcast. When a new program P5 arrives as shown in FIG. 2D, rather than squeezing in the new program in a limited free space, the memory portion 240 can be dynamically reconfigured to remove (i.e. drop) the program P1 in a predefined logic (e.g., first-in-first-out) from the cache memory portion 240 to accommodate the entire program P5 in memory space 250 so that the programs P2, P3, P4 and P5 are now available for replay if requested by a subscriber.

30 FIG. 2E illustrates cache management processing 260 according to one embodiment of the invention. The cache management processing 260 operates, for example, to dynamically reconfigure the cache memory portion 240. The cache management processing 260 begins with a decision 262 that determines whether the 35 cache memory portion 240 receives a new program. In other words, the cache management processing 260 determines whether a new program is polling in. To

facilitate the discussion of the cache management processing 260, a new program is defined herein to have contents that are not related to a program currently being broadcast, be produced from a different producer, or have a significant spatial break between segments of data block. For example, a program that is currently played is a 5 world/national news reporting from CNN Headlines, the new program may be a movie or a local new reporting. Optionally, when the program is in a compressed format (e.g., MPEG) and comprises a series of separate data segments, each new segment starting a different data block may be considered as a new program.

In any event, when the decision 262 determines that a new program has not 10 started to roll in, the cache management processing 260 awaits until a new program is fed in. Once the decision 262 determines that a new program is fed in and started to be broadcast, the cache management processing 260 moves to determine 264 the length of the new program (i.e., how long the program is going to last). For example, the new program might be a half-hour news reporting program or 2 gigabytes data that 15 may be provided in a program feeding instruction or a header of the data. In any case, the length of the new program represents storage requirements information. The amount of available space in the cache memory portion 240 is also determined 266. Next, a decision 268 determines whether the cache memory portion 240 has enough 20 available space (available storage capacity) to receive the new program. If the decision 268 determines that the available storage capacity is less than the storage requirements information, then an older program held in the cache memory portion 240 is removed (i.e., dropped) from the cache memory portion to free some space to accommodate the new program. Typically, the older program that is chosen to be discarded is the one that was cached first among all the programs currently being 25 cached in the cache memory portion 240. After the chosen program is removed, the cache management processing 260 moves back to 266 to determine if the available storage capacity is now large enough to accommodate the new program. If the available storage capacity is still not sufficient, then operations 266 - 270 are repeated until there is sufficient space available in the cache memory portion 240 to buffer the 30 new program 272.

To further understand the processing 260, it is assumed that the cache memory portion 240 is allocated for 100 Gigabytes and five programs P1, P2, P3, P4 and P5 respectively denote data blocks of 10, 40, 15, 30 and 50 Gigabytes in length and that were fed in with that order. In other words, with respect to FIG. 2C, the 35 programs P1, P2, P3 and P4 are currently cached in the cache memory portion 240 while the program P4 is being delivered to the client machines. In one embodiment, a

viewer can effectively rewind the program P4 back and, if desired, continue rewinding all the way to the beginning of the program P1, and thus allows the viewer to view any portion therebetween. When the program P5 starts to feed in, the cache memory portion 240 must reconfigure to receive the program P5. As the free space is the
5 cache memory portion 240 is only 5 Gigabytes at this point and thus is not sufficient to accommodate the program P5. Hence, the program P1 that was cached earliest is dropped (or removed) so as to free 10 Gigabytes of space. As a result, the total available space is 15 Gigabytes which is still not enough to accommodate the program P5. Hence, the next oldest program in the cache memory portion 240 is the program
10 P2 and must be dropped to free more space. When the program P2 is dropped, the total free space is now 55 Gigabytes. At this point, the program P5 can be cached in the cache memory portion 240. As a result, a viewer now can access any portions of the programs P3, P4 and P5.

Referring now back to FIG. 2A, the media delivery hardware 208 is a
15 transmission equipment that enables the data from the medial storage device 206 to be properly delivered to the subscribers. In one embodiment, the media deliver hardware 208 includes amplifiers to energize signals carrying the data for broadcasting over different mediums. In another embodiment, the media deliver hardware 208 includes network switches and routers (such as those provided by Cisco Systems, Inc.) to properly route the data to registered subscribers according to one or
20 more of the data delivery modes such as broadcasting, multicasting and unicasting.

FIG. 3A is a block diagram of a media system 300 according to one embodiment of the invention. The media system 300 is designed to function similar to the media delivery center 200 illustrated in FIG. 2A. However, the media system 300 is shown in a network environment. In particular, the media system 300 includes an Internet protocol (IP) /ATM network 302. Typically, the IP/ATM network is a local network that interconnects hardware units of the provider of media services using the media system 300. To provide an applicable digital video for incoming media content from a television (TV) broadcast, a satellite dish (SD) or the Internet (IN), video
25 network platform (VNP) devices 304, 306 and 308 are used to perform an conversion (including encoding) process. To accommodate digital video broadcast (DVB), a DVB-IP De-Multiplexer 303 is employed to receive and distribute DVB streams over IP networks and coupled to a bank of transcoders 305 which may provide a streaming rate, for example, from a few hundred kilo bit per second to a few hundred Mega bit
30 per second. Each of the transcoders 305 (including a bypass) can be selected to provide an optimum encoded bit for transport over a subsequent IP network. Together
35

with the transcoders 305, the DVB-IP De-Multiplexer 303 is capable to redistribute and reformat pre-encoded video content for distribution over an IP network. According to one embodiment that will be further described below, a VNP device can be configured to provide the functions of the DVB-IP De-Multiplexer 303 and the transcoders 305.

FIG. 3B shows a functional block diagram of a VNP device 330 according to one embodiment of the invention. The VNP device 330 may correspond to any one of the VNP devices in FIG. 3A. To accommodate all kinds of video signals, the VNP device 330 includes a port interface 332 that may combine together all types of input ports (not shown in the figure). Examples of the input ports may include, but not be limited to, a data port (e.g. an Ethernet port), a SDI port, an AES/EBU (Audio Engineers Society/European Broadcasting Union) port, a Video port, an L/R Audio port, a S-Video port. Generally, the port interface 332 outputs two different formats: digital data (e.g., file or streaming) and analog signals. The digital data may come from various sources in compressed or uncompressed format. Examples of the digital data may include, but be not limited to, MPEG1, MPEG2, MPEG4, MPEG7, Quicktime, MP3, MS ASF (Advanced Streaming Format) and AVI (Audio Visual Interleaved) files.. Depending on the final digital format transported over a medium to the subscribers, compressed digital data are typically decoded first in a decoder 336 to recover the original digital data that goes through a multiplexer (MUX) 338 and compressed by an encoder 340. The decoder 336 and the encoder 340 may be implemented in hardware, software or combination of both, which is known to those skilled in the art. It should be noted, however, that the encoder 340 can be dynamically controlled by quality/format control signals generated/formed from, for example, the media management system 205 of FIG. 2A, which will be further described below. In one situation, the final delivered video data format is MPEG4 with a best quality factor while the incoming video data is in MPEG2. The encoder 340 can thus configured to encode the incoming video data that has been decoded (i.e., digital video data) according the requirements, namely, parameters are set such that compressed video data is in MPEG4 with the best quality factor of 10, wherein the quality range is from 1 to 10 with 10 being the best).

When the incoming video data is DVB, the video data bypass the decoder and are transcoded in conformity with the required transmission bit rate by using one more appropriate transcoders in the transcoders 341. An interface 342 enables the VNP 330 to effectively communicate with a media storage device in one embodiment and with a media delivery hardware in another embodiment. If the VNP 330 and the media storage device are coupled together through a local area network, the interface

- 342 may be an Ethernet or IP interface. If the VNP 330 is coupled directly to the media delivery hardware, the interface 342 is configured to ensure proper handshaking and data transfers with the media delivery hardware. Examples of the protocol supported in the interface 342 may include, but not be limited to, HTTP 5 (Hypertext Transfer Protocol), RTP (Real-Time Transport Protocol), RTSP (Real-Time Stream Control Protocol), IP (Internet Protocol), SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol), MPEG transport, RSVP (Reservation Protocol) differential services, and H.323 (Audio/Video/Data Standard).

It should be noted that only one channel (i.e., video/audio) is depicted in FIG. 10 3B, there can be multiple channels in parallel, the outputs thereof can be properly handled in an output module 354. Regardless, it should be clear to those skilled in the art that the description above is equally applied to audio data as well. In fact, the 15 audio data coming together with the video data can be processed in a similar manner and/or in parallel and the final compressed audio data can then be combined with the compressed video data to be cached or transported over a communication medium.

When the incoming program is in analog, the audio and video signals are respectively digitized in the digitizer 344, which typically includes a digitizer for audio signals and a digitizer for video signals. The MUX 338 is controlled to select an appropriate source to ensure that the subsequent processing is correct.

20 To be complete, in some implementations, the communication medium with the subscribers can sometimes require that signals be analog. As the cached programs are digital, the programs are converted to the analog format before being transported. The video/audio channel 346 is designed to handle the conversion and includes an interface 348, a decoder 350 and a digital-to-analog converter (DAC) 352. The 25 interface 348 ensures that a compressed video received from a data line is properly received for the conversation. The decoder 350 is configured to decode the compressed video and may be implemented in hardware, software or a combination of both. In one embodiment, the decoder 336 is utilized to perform the conversation. The DAC 352 finally converts the decompressed digital video to analog signals. It 30 should be noted that the interface 342 and 348 and the decoder 336 and 352 are depicted separately to facilitate the description of one embodiment of a VNP device. Those skilled in the art will understand that an actual implementation of a VNP device can employ only one interface and one decoder therein to achieve the desired functions and results. Further, it should be understood that not every functional block 35 has to be implemented to facilitate the operations of a media delivery system.

The output circuitry 354 is preferably controlled by a media management system (e.g., the media management system 205) to output appropriate signals/data suitable for the communication medium over which the signals/data will be transported to the subscribers. FIG. 3C illustrates an exemplary screen to monitor/control a number of the VNP devices employed in a media delivery center according to one embodiment of the invention. As shown in FIG. 3C, each of the VNP devices is coupled to a data network and assigned to a port address listed in the column labeled "Address". The second column labeled "HostName" lists an identifier of each of the VNP devices, for example, vnp111 or vnp156. The third column labeled "Status" allows an operator to monitor the status of each of the VNP devices. When a VNP device is not functional (e.g., powered off), the status shows "ERROR", which may require an attention from an operator. In operation according to one embodiment, a VNP device functions in an either decoding or encoding mode. The fourth column labeled "MPEG Type" can show what type of compression a compressed video is in when it is in the decoding mode or what type of compression a video is being compressed to when it is in the encoding mode. The fifth column "Video Bitrate" can show the data speed (e.g., bit rate) of the video being processed (i.e., encoding). The sixth column "Streaming to" shows where the processed (e.g., encoded) video is destined, typically, to a cache memory or a broadcasting device identified by another address.. The seventh column "SAP Name" is used to show a session protocol or pertinent message to keep the operator aware what is going on in the corresponding VNP.

FIG. 3D shows an exemplary control screen used to control a selected VNP device and may be launched by activating (i.e., selecting or clicking-on) one of the VNP devices in FIG. 3C. The control screen of FIG. 3D permits the operator to assign the selected VNP to a designated port which a device may be coupled thereto to receive encoded video. In addition, various parameters may be manually inputted or controlled. When the advanced button is activated, it launches another screen shown in FIG. 3E which is an encoder setup screen to control the settings of the encoding process to ensure that the video data are encoded appropriately for subsequent delivery. Each different set of settings in FIG. 3E will cause the media management system to generate corresponding control signals that control the encoder 340 to function differently. FIG. 3F further shows an exemplary system setup screen in which the operator can, for example, redirect a VNP device to another device.

FIG. 3G shows an architecture 360 of a VNP device according to one embodiment. A command interface module 362 is configured to allow an operator to

directly control the operations of a selected VNP device, typically in a bank of VNP devices. The command interface module 362 is coupled to a control stream engine 364 that is designed to control the inflows of various media streams or files. The control stream engine 364 is coupled in parallel to a number of engines including a 5 video engine 365, an audio engine 367, a decode engine 369, a Mux engine 371, a VTR engine 373, a DTI/O engine 375, and a protocol engine 377. Each of the engines may be implemented in software, hardware or a combination of both. In particular, the video engine 365 is responsible for processing video signals or streaming data through a video encoder driver 366 which may be implemented with an encoding chip,

10 DVEXPERT, from C-Cube Microsystems, Inc. located at 1778 McCarthy Blvd., Milpitas, CA 95035. The audio engine 368 is used to control the processing of audio signals through a digital signal processing driver 368 which may be implemented with a DSP chip 50302 provided by Motorola, Inc. The decode engine 369 is responsible for decoding video signals or streaming data through a video decoder driver 370 which

15 may be implemented with a decoding chip, Ziva, also from C-Cube Microsystems, Inc. The Mux engine 371 controls the signal flows through a multiplexer 372 (e.g., MPEG multiplexer) to ensure the signals are properly routed and processed. The VTR driver 373, together with the VTR engine 374, is used to communicate with a video recording device. The DTI/O engine 375 is responsible for data input/output interface. In the 20 current embodiment as shown in FIG. 3G, the I/O interface is built upon a SCSI driver 376A, a RS422 376B and Ethernet driver 378A. The protocol engine 377 ensures that the VNP can properly communicate with a data network by providing one or more proper protocols. In the current embodiment as shown in FIG. 3G, the Ethernet driver 378A and a RS232 driver are used. The implementation of drivers 372, 374, 376A,

25 376B, 378A and 378B become evident to those skilled in the art in view of the above description and their provided functions in the system. All of the drivers 366, 368, 370, 372, 374, 376A, 376B, 378A and 378B are coupled to a data bus 380 on which video data are received/transported from/to one or more devices.

FIG. 3H shows a data flow in a transcoder 382 and shall be understood in 30 conjunction with FIG. 3G. As an input, video/audio data (i.e., uncompressed data) are coming to DTI/O engine 390 and decoded in a decoder engine 392 that produces uncompressed data. The uncompressed data typically comprise both audio/video data and are fed to a video engine 384 and an audio engine 386 for an encoding process. The video engine 384 and the audio engine 386 may, for example, correspond to the 35 engines 365 and 367 in FIG. 3G. Through a Mux engine 388, the compressed data

can be streamed to the DTI/O engine 390 that directs the data to a next proper device coupled to a data bus.

Referring now back to FIG. 3A, sometimes, satellite broadcasts being received via the satellite dish (SD) are encrypted, a decryption unit 310 can be provided to

- 5 perform a decryption process. The VNPs 304, 306 and 308 are network devices that couple to the IP/ATM network 302. The encoding provided by the VNPs 304, 306 and 308 can be performed in near real-time for live media. As described above, the VNPs 304, 306 and 308 can also output IP multicast streaming of the encoded live content for delivery of the live content to various subscribers.

- 10 With respect to satellite transmissions, the decryption unit 310 performs decryption and outputs the media content in a digital/analog format that is input to the VNP 306. When the media content has an encoded bit rate that is too high for the capabilities of IP network or the subscriber channels (e.g., DSL, Ethernet), the media content must be transcoded to fit the bandwidth supported in the IP network. As
15 described above, the DVB-IP De-Multiplexer 303, along with the bank of transcoders 305, can be implemented in a VNP device. Hence the VNP 306 is configured to reduce/increase the rate of the MPEG stream to an appropriate bit rate while maintaining the integrity of the MPEG stream.

- The media system 300 also includes a video delivery management server 312.
20 The video delivery management server 312 is a server that couples to the IP/ATM network 302. The video delivery management server 312 manages the storage and delivery of media content (e.g., videos) as well as manages the setup, customization and monitoring of media services offered to subscribers. In one embodiment, the video delivery management server 312 is accessed through an administration interface 313 to perform the operations associated with the media management unit 204 illustrated in FIG. 2.

- The media system 300 also includes a video server 314 that includes a media management system to efficiently manage, store and catalog media content (namely, videos) that are deliverable by the media system 300. The video server 314 provides
30 storage for the media content (e.g., videos) and represents a network device that operates to provide media storage. In one embodiment, the video server 314 performs the operations associated with the media storage device 206 illustrated in FIG. 2A. The media content stored at the video server 314 can be delivered by media delivery hardware 316 to client machines 318, 320 and 322 of various subscribers. In one
35 embodiment, the connection between the media delivery hardware 316 and the client machines 318, 320 and 322 is over a public network. In one embodiment, the public

network includes a broadband link to the client machines 318, 320 and 322. For example, the broadband link can be a xDSL channel. In alternative embodiments, the media delivery hardware 316 can couple to the client machines 318, 320 and 322 over other types of links, including cable or wireless. The client machines 318, 320 and 322 preferably have high quality graphics display capabilities and operate to provide playback of live and stored content from various encoders or video servers. In one embodiment, the client machines 318, 320 and 322 have a short boot cycle, no hard drive, and support a client interface (e.g., HTML and JavaScript). The client interface allows a viewer to perform various interactions with the media management system for desired services or applications offered by the media delivery center.

To support and manage network protocols in various subscriber channels, a SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol) management module 315 is employed to govern network management and monitor devices coupled to the network 302 and their functions. The details of SNMP can be obtained from the Internet Engineering 15 Task Force (IETF) Requests for Comments (RFCs).

In addition, the media system 300 includes a commercial information server 317 that typically operates with the video deliver management server 312. The commercial information server 317 receives commercial information from service/product promoters and retain the commercial information therein for a limited 20 time. The commercial information is generally registered with the video deliver management server 312 so that the media management system in the video deliver management server 312 knows the purposes or contents of the commercial information. When appropriate, the media management system causes the commercial information stored in the commercial information server 317 to be released 25 to a certain group of subscribers to create more effective product/service promotions. For simplicity, servers 312, 314, 315 and 317 are depicted separately. However, those skilled in the art will understand that the functions provided by these servers may not be necessarily implemented respectively in several different servers.

FIG. 4A is a block diagram of a media receiving unit 400 according to one 30 embodiment of the invention. The media receiving unit 400 is, for example, suitable for use as the media receiving unit 202 illustrated in FIG. 2A.

The media receiving unit 202 includes a plurality of encoders 404 and a plurality decrypters 406. Typically, the encoders 404 (e.g., VNP devices) are utilized 35 by incoming TV broadcast or satellite broadcasts such that the content can be converted into a compressed and/or digital format. For example, the compressed and/or digital format can be MPEG. The output of the encoders 404 can also be in an

IP data format for transmission across networks using a communication protocol (e.g., HTTP/IP and WTP). With the media content provided in an IP format, the media content is able to be transmitted through the media system as well as to subscribers. The decrypters 406 are used when the incoming media content is encrypted, as often

5 the case from the satellite dish transmissions. The media receiving unit 400 also includes a media reception controller 402. The media reception controller controls the operation of a media receiving unit 400 so that incoming content from the various media sources can be controlled and processed in the appropriate manner. For example, TV broadcasts may not need to undergo any decryption, whereas satellite

10 transmissions often need to be decrypted. Also, Internet broadcasts typically do not need encoding or decryption, but could use the encoders 404 to perform an adjustment in the degree of compression. In one embodiment, the encoders 404 can be configured to perform bit rate change, e.g., from a higher rate to a lower rate to accommodate the bandwidth of the communication medium associated with the

15 subscriber channels. The media reception controller 402 can also service the commercial provider (CP) such that incoming commercials that are to be utilized during delivery of media content can also be placed in a suitable transmission format. The media receiving unit 400 also includes a content list manager 408. The content list manager 408 maintains a list of the content being received. In one respect, the

20 media reception controller 402 can function closely with the content list manager 408 so that some of the commercial programs (e.g., advertisements and promotions) can be inserted in the regular programs properly.

FIG. 4B shows a reception and encoding process 420 according to one embodiment of the invention. The reception and encoding process and shall be

25 understood in conjunction with FIGs. 3A-3I and FIG. 4A. The reception and encoding process 420 starts with a decision 422 to determine if a program is being fed in from a source. The program may be received from a satellite receiver, a cable feeder, a data network, and various production companies. When a program arrives, the reception and encoding process 420 first checks whether the program is encrypted. Sometimes,

30 the program is delivered from an open network (e.g., the Internet or the satellite relay) and is therefore encrypted. The means for encrypting programs for transporting via an open network is well known in the art. Next, at decision 424, it is determined that the program is encrypted, the reception and encoding process 420 operates to decrypt 426 the program. If it is determined at the decision 424 that the program is not

35 encrypted, then the reception and encoding process 420 bypasses the decrypting 426 operation.

In any event, following operation 426 or following operation 424 directly, an encoder is assigned 428 to the channel through which the program is fed in. The assignment is preferably performed through a control illustrated in FIGs. 3C and 3E. Further, the encoder may be provided or implemented by the VNP device described above. In order words, the encoder may perform a decoding process before an encoding process takes place as shown in FIG. 3B. By assigning 428 an encoder to the channel, the assigned encoder is dedicated to process the incoming program and stream it to an appropriate device such as the media storage device 206 of FIG. 2A (e.g., cache memory portion).

As illustrated in FIGs. 3C and 3D, after the encode is assigned 428, a number of control parameters for the encoder can be assigned 430. The control parameters may include, but not be limited to, what encoding scheme shall be performed and suitable for subsequent subscriber channels, quality factor setting (e.g., 1-coarse to 10-very fine), expected bit rates to fit the bandwidth of the channels, etc. Then, with the control parameters assigned 428, then the reception and encoding process 420 performs 432 an encoding process. Following the encoding process, the output of the processed program is streamed 434 to a device determined.

It should be noted that the reception and encoding process 420 is not limited to video or audio programs. Quite often the feeding programs (sources) are from businesses that desire to take advantage of the popularity of the subscribers belonging to a media delivery center. For example, subscriber-oriented commercial programs can be delivered to subscribers.

As will be described in greater detail below, the media management system in the media delivery center is able to record viewing habits and likes/dislikes of each of the subscribers in one embodiment of the invention. With the statistic measurement of the subscribers, the commercial programs can be more effectively promoted. According to one embodiment of the invention, the commercial programs are managed in the content list manager 408 that can be accessed when one of the commercial programs therein are to be delivered.

FIG. 5A is a block diagram of a media management unit 500 according to one embodiment of the invention. The media management unit 500 is, for example, suitable for use as the media management unit 204 illustrated in FIG. 2A.

The media management unit 500 includes a live assets manager 502 and a stored assets manager 504. In one embodiment, the live assets manager 502 and the stored assets manager 504 are implemented in the media management system 205 illustrated in FIG. 2A. The live assets manager 502 serves to manage live broadcasts

being received by the media receiving unit 202 such that the live broadcasts are saved and/or delivered to subscribers over the network as desired. The live assets manager 502 includes a channel management module 506 and a program guide management module 508.

- 5 The channel management module 506 allows an administrator to manage the channels that are to be delivered or available to the subscribers from the media system. Often, the media system will receive numerous incoming broadcasts from the various media sources. The channel management module 506 determines which ones of these incoming broadcasts are to be carried (live or storage) by the media
- 10 system. Those incoming broadcasts being carried live are temporarily cached and then delivered to interested subscribers. Those incoming broadcasts that are to be stored for later delivery are stored in the media database. Those incoming broadcasts that are not being carried live or stored can be discarded. The media management module 506 can also allow channel numbers to be assigned to particular broadcasts.
- 15 The media management module 506 can also enable customers to receive and/or select those channels to be transmitted to them.

- 20 The program guide management module 508 allows the media management unit 500 to provide a program guide to subscribers. The program guide can be formulated by the program guide management module 508. The program guide can also be dependent upon the channel arrangement that has been authorized by the channel management module 506. In this regard, subscribers can access program guide that reflects only the media content available to the subscribers. Still further, an individual subscriber, or groups of subscribers, can further customize their program guide to better fit their preferences and needs so that they are able to easily and efficiently examine their program guide with respect to their interests and available channels.
- 25

- 30 FIG. 5B illustrates an exemplary program guide 520 according to one embodiment of the invention. The program guide 520 can originate from the program guide management module 508. In one embodiment, the program guide 520 is implemented with a markup language and is downloaded to a client machine for display and updated at predefined times. The program guide 520 originally lists all the channels being serviced by the media delivery center. A viewer can navigate all the channels. For the convenience of the viewer, the program guide 520 can include a current time bar 552 that is preferably highlighted. The current time bar 552 may be 35 0.5 or 1 hour in width and may be highlighted with a highlighted board or colored

differently from the rest of the program guide so that a viewer is able to notice immediately what programs are currently being played.

- In one implementation, a subscriber is permitted to access his/her own account to customize the program guide 520 to fit his/her own needs. For example,
- 5 the subscriber is able to customize the number of hours before or after the current time bar 552. As a result, the subscriber can see/determine what program is being played or viewed in certain channels at a glance without extensive surfing through tens, perhaps hundreds of channels.

FIG. 5C shows a flowchart of program guide processing 530 according to one embodiment of the invention. The program guide processing 530 operates to provide a program guide to one or more client machines. Typically, the program guide processing 530 begins when one or new programs are newly received from a feeding source or some changes are to be made to the program guide. In a preferred implementation, the program guide processing 530 proceeds in the program guide management 508 that closely functions with the channel-management module 506 of FIG. 5A.

Initially, a program guide is generated or updated 532. The program guide may be viewed as a tablet, if displayed, that lists many time slots, each is associated with a program to be broadcast as scheduled. A current time bar is generated according to a current time in the media delivery center or a client machine and placed 534 in the program guide. A decision 536 then determines if there is one or more requests received from the client machines for an updated program guide or if a predefined time has arrived. If not, then the program guide processing can end or return to operation 532. On the other hand, when it is determined that there are such requests or it is time to deliver an updated program guide, than an updated program guide shall be delivered to the client machines receiving services from the media delivery center. More particularly, a decision 538 determines if any of the subscribers have preferences regarding the program guide. The subscribers can set their preferences by setting parameters in their subscriber accounts. If there are no preferences, then the program guide is delivered 544. In one embodiment, the program guide is delivered 544 to a cache memory in the client machine so that the subscribers have a whole view of the program guide prepared at operation 532. On the other hand, if the decision 538 determines that each of the subscribers has his/her preference, then the corresponding parameters are retrieved 540 from his/her account. Then, the program guide is reformatted 542 according to the parameters. After the program guide is

reformatted 542, the program guide is delivered 544 to the corresponding client machines.

As described above and further below, each of the subscriber accounts in the media management system can be customized by the administrator or the customer (subscriber) according to a particular service agreement with the customer or preferences set by the customer. These customized results are controlled by a number of parameters in each of the account. For example, one account can access a limited 10 channels from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM, another account can access all the channels any time but the account holder prefers to see a guide with only 10 commonly access channels. Hence, the parameters are respectively retrieved 540 from each of the accounts and used to reformat 542 the program guide for one or more subscribers. As a result, there are often a number of customized program guides created, each being formatted according to a corresponding subscriber's requirements. These customized program guides are then respectively delivered to the corresponding client machines. Typically, each of customized program guides will include the current time bar.

Referring now back to FIG. 5A, the stored assets manager 504 serves to manage the media content stored in the media database. Such media content are referred to as "stored assets". In contrast to live content, the stored assets are the media content that can be delivered to subscribers when desired. The stored assets manager 504 includes a record content module 510 and a received content storage module 512. The record content module 510 operates to facilitate the recording of content to the media database. The media content to be recorded by the record content module 510 can be the media content associated with a pause or record request issued by a subscriber. The received content storage module 510 operates to store the incoming media content received by the media receiving unit 202 into the media database.

FIG. 6 is a block diagram of media delivery hardware 600 according to one embodiment of the invention. The media delivery hardware 600 is, for example, suitable for use as the media delivery hardware 208 illustrated in FIG. 2A. The media delivery hardware 600 can also be referred to as a video head-end.

The media delivery hardware 600 includes a live channel feed 602, a NVOD channel feed 604, and a media-on-demand feed 606. The live channel feed 602 serves to control the transmissions of live broadcasts over the network to subscribers. The delivery of the media content for live broadcasts is typically dependent upon a schedule for live content that has been set by the media management unit 204. In one

embodiment, the media contents for a live broadcast is delivered over the network using multicasting and the IP protocol. The NVOD channel feed 604 serves to control the delivery of NVOD type media content over the network to subscribers. In one embodiment, the media contents for NVOD is delivered over the network using uncasting or multicasting and the IP protocol. The media-on-demand feed 606 serves to control the delivery of on-demand media content over the network to subscribers. In one embodiment, the media content for media-on-demand is delivered over the network using uncasting or multicasting and the IP protocol. In the case of media-on-demand delivery, the delivery of the media content is typically not dependent on a determined schedule.

The media on-demand feed 606 includes a broadcast data service module 608, a scheduler service module 610, and a scheduled playout exporter module 612. The broadcast data service module 608 serves to guide the retrieval of the media content from the media database and cause the media content to be transmitted (e.g., streaming) over the network. The media content can be broadcasted, unicasted, or multicasted over the network. Broadcast refers to transmission of content such that anyone able to receive the transmitted content. Unicast, also called one-to-one cast, refers to transmission of content to a particular subscriber. Multicast refers to transmission of content to a group of particular subscribers. In a data network, the address of a receiver is specified in a unicast communication packet while a unique address is used for specifying a broadcast communication packet. To provide efficient delivery of data to more than one but not all receivers, a special range of addresses designated for network multicast sessions are used in a multicast communication packet.

The scheduler service module 610 serves to schedule the delivery of certain media content to particular subscribers that requested such media content. In this regard, the particular subscribers can be identified by the IP addresses of the client machines. The scheduled playout exporter module 612 serves to control the distribution of media content from the media database in accordance with a determined play schedule which is typically used in near media-on-demand (NMOD) services. In a typical NMOD service, a particular program is repeatedly started according to a predefined schedule. For example, a new movie, because of its popularity, is scheduled to be played every 10 minutes so that more subscribers can participate in the show from the beginning. According to one embodiment, the movie can be cached in a particular location in a storage device in the media delivery center. The location of the movie in the storage device, which may include a pair of starting

and ending addresses, is provided to the scheduled playout exporter module 612 that can be configured to associate the location with each of the scheduled times. As a result, only one recorded copy is retained in the storage device while multiple copies at different intervals can be provided to subscribers.

5 FIG. 7A is a block diagram of a media delivery center 700 according to another embodiment of the invention. The media delivery center 700 represents a more detailed embodiment than the media delivery center 200 illustrated in FIG. 2A.

The media delivery center 700 includes a media receiving unit 702 that receives incoming media content from various media sources. A media management 10 unit 704 controls the overall operation of the media delivery center 700. The media management unit 704 also couples to a media database 706 and media delivery hardware 708. The media database 706 stores the media content that is received and to be potentially delivered to subscribers via the media delivery hardware 708 over a network. The media receiving unit 702, the media database 706 and the media 15 delivery hardware 708 are generally similar to the media receiving unit 202, the media database 206 and the media delivery hardware 708 of the media delivery center 200 illustrated in FIG. 2A.

In addition, the media delivery center 700 includes a portal 710 and an email service 712. The portal 710 and the email service 712 couple to the Internet and 20 provide additional services to subscribers of the media system via the media delivery center 700. In other words, subscribers to the media system can access the Internet through the portal 710. Additionally, subscribers to the media system 700 can be provided with email capabilities through the email service 712. Hence, email and Internet access can be integrated into the media system.

25 The media management unit 700 is an integrated solution that allows for the overall management of the media system. In addition to the description of the media management system 500 discussed above with respect to FIG. 5A, the media management unit 700 can further include a pause module 714, a record module 716, and a vault module 718. The pause module 714 serves to control a pause 30 functionality that is offered to subscribers so that they may effectively pause their viewing of a broadcasted program. The record module 716 allows subscribers to record programs for later viewing. The content being recorded is stored in the media database 706, and is thus in a central location. Additional detail on pausing and recording is contained in: (i) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/585,707 (Att.Dkt.No.: 35 MINEP001), filed 5/31/200, and entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PAUSING AND REPLAYING SCHEDULED MEDIA RICH BROADCASTS", the content of which

is hereby incorporated by reference; and (ii) U.S. Patent Application No. 09/586,247 (Att.Dkt.No.: MINEP002), filed 5/31/2000, and entitled "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR RECORDING SCHEDULED PROGRAMS WITHOUT LOCAL RECORDING EQUIPMENT", the content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

5 The vault module 718 serves to provide personal storage for subscribers of the content recorded or paused either by the owner thereof or other designated subscribers who have limited access to the owner's account. In addition, the vault module 718 can provide a mechanism to facilitate a personal library and a bookmark.

10 According to one embodiment, the content or program recorded in the personal storage associated with a vault is identified by an index that includes location information of where the content recorded is located in a storage device, a title thereof, who and when the content was requested by for the retention. The index can be kept in a list maintained in the vault module 718 for the corresponding account. In some implementations, the index may be forwarded or emailed to another account. As a 15 result, the subscriber of the other account can access the index to see what is in the corresponding vault.

20 A personal library is defined herein a collection of programs that a subscriber desires to review from time to time. The difference with respect to a media or video bookmark is that the programs in the personal library are typically stored in a storage space (e.g., a rental space) designated to the account, perhaps for a fee. On the other hand, while a bookmark maintains a list of indexes identifying where the indexed 25 programs are stored remotely, the indexed programs may be in the personalized rental space or in the stored assets storage. Both of the personal library or the media bookmark are preferably accessed from a designed interactive element, such as a Vault icon, which will be further described below.

FIG. 7B shows flowchart of a bookmark list process 730 according to one embodiment of the invention. The bookmark list process 730 manages a bookmark list for a subscriber account in a media deliver center. A bookmark list is maintained 732 such that it is associated with an account. The bookmark list may be maintained 30 through the media management system 205 of FIG. 2A and can be implemented using a linked list structure. In one embodiment, each account has a bookmark list that is directly resident in the account. In another embodiment, all bookmarks are located in a storage space and each of the bookmarks is coupled to a corresponding account. In either case, only the authorized subscriber is permitted to update the bookmark list in 35 the account.

At a decision 734, a server that hosts the bookmark determines if a request to update the bookmark list has been received. Typically, a request to update bookmark list is sent out by a subscriber at a client machine through which the subscriber has located an interesting program and desires to bookmark the program. Generally, the 5 program is one of the programs serviced and stored by the media deliver center. Upon determining that such request has been received, the bookmark list process 730 goes to determine 736 an entry that includes where the program is located in a storage device, the title and length of the program. The entry is then inserted 738 into the bookmark list. By now, the bookmark list has been updated with the new entry and 10 is available for selection.

It should be evident to those skilled in the art that the bookmark list process 730 can similarly be applied to a process of maintaining a personal library through maintaining a library index list. To fully understand the operation of the process of maintaining a personal library, FIG. 7C shows a flowchart of a library update process 15 750 according to one embodiment of the invention and may be understood in conjunction with FIG. 7B (with the bookmark list replaced with the library index list).

The library update process 750 begins with a decision 752 that determines whether a subscriber associated with a client device is authenticated. The client device is used by the subscriber to communicate with a media delivery center to 20 receive the media services or applications. When the decision 752 determines that the subscriber is not authenticated, the library update process 750 cannot be carried out due to lack of authentication. In one embodiment, the authentication is checked based on username and password that can be verified against information in the corresponding subscriber account.

Once the decision 752 determines that proper authentication has been provided, then a library index list is received 754. In one embodiment, the library index list is downloaded from the media delivery center. The library index list typically includes entries, each corresponding to a previously stored program and having information on where the program is located in a storage space, production 30 information, date and length of the program. The library index list is preferably assembled in a markup language, such as HTML, and each entry is a hyperlink that can be activated when displayed on a display screen.

The subscriber then provides 756 a program to be archived in the library. The program may be one of those programs provided by the media delivery center. In 35 addition, the program can be provided by the subscriber from a local equipment such as a digital video camera. The use of a local source enables the subscriber to make

his/her own videos and store them with the media delivery center in his/her video library. In any event, once the program to be archived is provided 756, a request to archive the program in a storage space is generated 758 in the client machine. The request may include IP addresses thereof and the server and information of the length or data capacity, or an ID of the selected program. Upon receiving the request, the media delivery center determines an entry for the corresponding library index list (similar to operation 736 of FIG. 7B). Before the entry is formed, the media delivery center may check the subscriber's account to see whether the account is permitted to accept the program (particularly when the subscriber is archiving the programs other than provided by the media delivery center, namely, user-provided programs). In one situation, the media delivery center needs to check if the account has subscribed enough storage spaces to archive the program. If the media delivery center cannot perform the archiving for one reason or another, a response is returned to the client machine. A decision 760 determines whether the client machine receives a response from the media delivery center that the library was successfully updated. When the decision 760 determines that the library update was refused, the library update process 750 can make another request by returning to operation 758. On the other hand, when the decision 760 determines that the library update was (or can be done) successful, then the media delivery center has updated the library list. In the case of user-provided programs, after the decision 760 determines that they can be done, their storage is achieved by being uploaded from the client machine to the storage space of the media delivery center. In either case, the media delivery center stores the received program in a storage space associated to the account of the requesting subscriber. Following the successful storage or archiving of the program, the list update process 750 returns to operation 754 where the updated library list is received. Typically, the updated library list is displayed by the client device.

Referring now back to FIG. 7A, the media management unit 700 further includes a media packaging and pricing module 720, a transaction module 722, a billing module 724, and a customer management module 726. The media packaging and pricing module 720 allows the media management unit 704 to customize its service packages and to also customize its pricing options. The transaction module 722 monitors subscriber's transactions request with respect to the media delivery center 700. For example, if a subscriber requests to receive a video-on-demand, the transaction module 722 can record an indication to cause the subscriber to be charged for that special service. As another example, the transaction module 722 can monitor that amount of time subscribers have used pause or record services. The billing

module 724 can serve to automate the billing of each of the subscribers in accordance with their channel package as well as any special services they have utilized, such as pause, record, or on-demand request. The customer management module 726 allows the media management unit 704 to track customer requests, complaints and the like.

- 5 The customer management module 726 also allows for the storage of customer related information including statistic measurement of viewing habits and likes or dislikes based on, for example, the viewing time on each of or predefined channels.

The media management system employed in a media delivery center provides a graphical user interface for a user, namely, an administrator (or operator), to interact 10 with the media system (i.e., the media management system). FIGs. 8A – 14C are representative screen shots associated with administrative functions that are provided by the media system. These screen shots are illustrative of administrative operations and features of the media system but are not to be deemed as limiting the invention.

The media system allows an administrator to interact with the media 15 management unit of the media system through the graphical user interface. The graphical user interface can also be referred to as an administrator-client user interface. The administrator-client user interface provides a series of user interface screens to enable the administrator to interact with the media management unit. One of the features and advantages provided in the media system is the built-in flexible 20 mechanism that permits the media system to be customized to fit its business needs and objectives. Another feature and advantage of the media system is to free the media system from any specific requirements set forth by different media delivery centers, thereby a generic media system is provided and permits each media delivery center to customize the media system in a desired way.

25 According to one embodiment, these user interface screens pertain to various modules. These modules include system setup, service and pricing, stored asset management, live asset management, customer management, device configuration, and billing.

The system setup module includes a series of screens as depicted in FIGs. 8A 30 - 8E. FIG. 8A is a screenshot of a business information setup screen 800 according to one embodiment of the invention. The business information setup screen includes a navigation and information area 802 and a business information entry area 804. The navigation and information area 802 includes links (e.g., hyperlinks) to other modules of the administrator-client user interface as well as information pertaining to system 35 statistics and administrative assistance. The business information entry area 804 presents a form that allows the administrator to enter information on a particular

business. The information, for example, includes owner information, customer ID style, and billing information and localization information.

FIG. 8B is a screenshot of a system configuration screen 820 according to one embodiment of the invention. The system configuration screen 820 includes the navigation and information area 802 as discussed above, a system configuration area 822, a VNP configuration area 824, and an add new VNP area 826. The system configuration area 822 allows the administrator to configure the system with respect to program guide and channel information, video standard, and demon control. The VNP configuration area 824 illustrates the VNPs that are available in the media system as well as whether a channel has been assigned to them. In this regard, the VNP has an identifier (ID), an IP address, and a port number. A channel can be assigned to a particular VNP and have an assigned channel name, and an assigned channel number. The VNP configuration area can also provide a channel type and indicate whether pause or record are available for the assigned channel. The add new VNP area 826 allows a VNP device to be configured for addition to the media system. In addition, the system configuration screen 820 can also allow a VNP of the media system to be edited or deleted.

FIG. 8C is a screenshot of an administration user screen 840. The administration user screen 840 includes the navigation and information area 802, an administration user management area 842, and an add new administration user area 844. The administration user management area 842 lists those users who are registered with the system with administrator access. For each administrator, their name, account status and login are provided. In addition, with respect to each of the various modules available by the media management unit, the administration user management area 842 can also indicate whether or not the particular administrator has access to such modules. Accordingly, certain administrators can have access to limited modules as appropriate. The add new administration user area 844 allows information to be entered for a new administration user as well as the ability to limit the new administration user's access to certain modules. The administration user screen 840 can also allow an administration user (administrator) of the media system to be edited or deleted by selection of an edit admin. button 846 or delete admin. button 848, respectively. FIG. 8D illustrates an administration user screen 860 according to one embodiment of the invention. The administration user screen 860 represents the administration user screen 840 in FIG. 8C after the edit admin. button 846 is selected. The administration user screen 860 includes an edit selected administration user 862.

The edit selected administration user 862 can be utilized to edit a selected one of the previously existing administration users.

FIG. 8E is a screenshot of a data import screen 880 according to one embodiment of the invention. The data import screen 880 includes the navigation and information area 802, an import TV data area 882, an import device list area 844, and an import customer list area 886. The import TV data area 882 allows various incoming channels to be selected for import, assigned a system channel name and/or system channel number, selected whether or not the channels are pausable or recordable, and assigned IP addresses and ports for the imported TV data. The assignment of imported channels to internal channels and their attributes is referred to as data mapping or data map, and the import TV data area 802 allows the current data map to be displayed or a new data map to be submitted.

The service and pricing module includes a series of screens that allow service packages and various pricing components to be managed by an administrator. These screen are depicted in FIGs. 9A - 9F.

FIG. 9A is a screenshot of a channel package pricing screen 900 according to one embodiment of the invention. The channel package pricing screen 900 includes the navigation and information area 802, a channel package area 902 and an add new channel package area 904. The channel package area 902 lists the existing channel packages by their names and associates channel and processing information therewith. The add new channel package area 904 allows an administrator to provide a new channel package, set its price and its start date. Besides adding a new channel package, the channel package processing screen 900 can also enable an administrator to edit or delete a channel package. FIG. 9B illustrates a channel package pricing screen 910. The channel package pricing screen 910 includes the navigation and information area 802, the channel package area 902, and an edit selected channel package area 912. For a particular channel package that is selected in the channel package area 902, the edit selected channel package area 912 enables the administrator to alter the attributes of a particular channel package and set a date as to when the changes to the channel package become effective.

FIG. 9C is a screenshot of a service package pricing screen 920 according to one embodiment of the invention. The service package pricing screen 920 includes the navigation and information area 802, a service package area 922, and an add new service package area 924. The service package area 922 lists the available service packages that have been previously defined. For each of the packages, the displayed information includes: package name, services, pricing, promotion package, promotion

start date, promotion end date, new services, new price, and new pricing start date. The services provided with a service package include a channel package as well as possibly additional services such as pause, record and/or Internet access. The add new service package area 924 allows a new service package to be created. For each 5 new service package being created the information provided at the add new service package area 924 includes: new service package name, associated channel package(s), pricing for the service package, start date, promotion package, promotion start date, promotion end date, amount of record space (e.g., in hours), and whether pause and/or Internet access are provided with the service package. Such information 10 can also be referred to as attributes of the service package. The service package pricing screen 920 also allows an administrator to edit or delete an existing service package. FIG. 9D illustrates a screenshot of a service package pricing screen 930 according to one embodiment of the invention. The service package pricing screen 930 is generally similar to the service package pricing screen 920 illustrated in FIG. 15 9C. However, the service package pricing screen 930 includes an edit selected service package area 932 instead of the add new service package 924. The edit selected service package 932 allows a particular service package selected in the service package area 922 to be edited by the administrator. Accordingly, an administrator is able to not only create new service packages (FIG. 9C) but also 20 modify the attributes associated with existing service packages (FIG. 9D).

FIG. 9E is a screenshot of an asset pricing screen 940 according to one embodiment of the invention. The assets are stored assets that can be delivered to subscribers as VOD or NVOD. The asset pricing screen 940 includes the navigation and information area 802, a VOD set pricing area 942, and a NVOD set pricing area 25 944. The VOD set pricing area 942 allows a stored asset to be assigned to a VOD set which can have a number of rates (pricing levels) associated therewith. For example, with respect to the VOD set "1stSyn." there are four possible pricing levels A, B, C and D whose rates are provided. Note that these rates (Pricing) are set so that the stored assets can be aged automatically. The rental times (Rental Time) for the rates also 30 can age automatically. Hence, for each rate type, there is a cost (Pricing) and a time period (Change Time) before the asset is changed to the next level. The VOD sets can also be created, altered or deleted. The NVOD pricing area 944 is similar to the VOD pricing area 942. For those stored assets used for NVOD, there is a field (Rental Time) that indicates when/how long the subscriber has to view the NVOD stored asset.

35 FIG. 9F illustrates a screenshot of another pricing screen 960 according to one embodiment of the invention. The other pricing screen 960 includes the navigation

and information area 802, a record space rental pricing area 962, a special offer area 964, and a pause and Internet access area 966. The various areas 962, 964 and 966 provided with the other pricing screen 960 enable an administrator to set prices for the various other features or services that can be provided with a service package or as a supplement thereto. The record space rental pricing area 962 indicates the price for renting a certain number of hours of recording space and allows new prices to take effect on an effective date. The special offer area 964 allows special offers to be defined, priced and have a start and end date on the availability of the special offers. The pause and Internet access area 966 allows the rates for pause and Internet. access to be defined as well as to allow for new pricing to be set to take effect on an effective date.

The stored asset management module of the graphical user interface includes a series of screens that allow stored assets to be added, edited, deleted, profiled or scheduled for recording. These screen are depicted in FIGs. 10A - 10E.

FIG. 10A is a screenshot of a stored assets list management screen 1000 according to one embodiment of the invention. The stored assets list management screen 1000 includes the navigation and information area 802, a stored assets list area 1002, an asset profile area 1004, and an assets command area 1006. The stored assets list 1002 provides a list of the stored assets within the media system. The stored assets within the stored assets list can be listed (ordered) in a variety of different ways based on browser category, subcategory, rating, type, etc. The asset profile area 1004 provides a profile for a selected one of the stored assets. For example, the assets profile area 1004 provides information such as title, episode title, category, subcategory, rating, encode type, asset added by, asset added date time, VOD set, NVOD set, NVOD channel, current trailer, trailer list, location (storage location) and description. The assets control area 1006 allows an administrator to delete, edit or add assets to the stored assets list 1002. In addition, when adding assets to the stored assets, there are several options on how the assets can be added. For example, assets can be added from a newly received assets list, from entering data manually, or from a scheduled recording from a program guide.

When assets are to be added from the newly received assets list, a stored asset management screen 1010 illustrated in FIG. 10B can be presented to the administrator according to one embodiment of the invention. The stored asset management screen 1010 includes the navigation and information area 802, the stored assets list 1002, and an add assets from asset list area 1012. The add assets from asset list area 1012 allows assets to be added to the stored assets from an

identified asset list. Typically, some or all of the profile information for the assets being added is imported from the newly received assets list.

When assets are to be added from a scheduled recording from a program guide, a stored asset management screen 1020 illustrated in FIG. 10C can be presented to the administrator according to one embodiment of the invention. The stored asset management screen 1020 includes the navigation and information area 802, the stored assets list 1002, and an add assets from program schedule area 1022. The add assets from program schedule area 1022 displays at least a portion of a program schedule and allows an administrator to select to record a program from the program schedule. Once a program has been selected, profile information for this selected program can be automatically filled in and/or entered or modified by the administrator.

When assets are to be added manually, a stored asset management screen 1030 illustrated in FIG. 10D can be presented to the administrator according to one embodiment of the invention. The stored asset management screen 1030 includes the navigation and information area 802, the stored assets list area 1002, and an add assets by entering data area 1032. Here, an administrator can add profile information pertaining to an asset to be added to the stored assets by manually entering data into the form provided in the add assets via the entering data area 1032.

Still further, when stored asset information is to be edited or modified, a stored asset management screen 1040 illustrated in FIG. 10E can be presented to the administrator according to one embodiment of the invention. FIG. 10E is a screenshot of a stored asset management screen 1040 according to one embodiment of the invention. The stored asset management screen 1040 includes the navigation and information area 802, the stored assets list 1002, and a modify asset area 1042. Here, an administrator can interact with the modify asset area 1042 to alter previously determined profile information for the particular asset being modified.

The live asset management module of the graphical user interface includes a series of screens that allow live assets to be added, edited, deleted from channels offered by the media system. These screen are depicted in FIGs. 11A – 11G.

FIG. 11A is a screenshot of live asset management screen 1100 according to one embodiment of the invention. The live asset management screen 1100 includes the navigation and information area 802, a program guide area 1102, a selected program area 1104, and a selected channel area 1106. The program guide area 1102 displays a program guide of the various channels and programs being offered as live assets by the media system. The programs are arranged in a grid-like fashion with

rows pertaining to time slots and columns pertaining to channels. The selected program area 1104 provides certain profile information about a selected program and enables the administrator to add, delete, edit or record programs. The selected channel pertains to the channel that has been selected with respect to the program 5 guide illustrated in the program guide area 1102. In this example, channel 1 has been selected. The selected channel area 1106 pertains to the channel that has been selected with respect to the program guide illustrated in the program guide area 1102. The selected channel area 1106 allows an administrator to add, delete or edit a channel. The channel can be either a live channel or a Nvod channel.

10 FIG. 11B is a screenshot of a live asset management screen 1110 according to one embodiment of the invention. The live asset management screen 1110 follows from the live asset management screen 1100 illustrated in FIG. 11A after the administrator has requested to add a live channel using the selected channel area 1106. The live asset management screen 1110 includes the navigation and 15 information area 802, the program guide area 1102, and an add live channel area 1112. The add live channel area 1112 allows the administrator to add a live channel to the program guide and thus make it available. In adding a live channel, the administrator can enter a channel number, channel name, device address, port, and indicate whether a channel is on, and indicate whether pause or record are available. 20 In addition, a program guide for this added live channel can be imported from another channel. Similarly, FIG. 11C illustrates a live asset management screen 1120 according to one embodiment of the invention. The live asset management screen 1120 includes the navigation and system area 802, the program guide area 1102, and an add Nvod channel area 1122. The add Nvod channel area 1122 allows the 25 administrator to add a Nvod channel to the program guide and thus make the newly created channel available. In this example, the administrator can provide a channel number, channel name, device address, port, and whether channel is on. The administrator can also set a start date and time, a number of days to repeat the content and how often to repeat each day. Further, the administrator can select 30 available content from an Nvod content list.

FIG. 11D is a screenshot of a live asset management screen 1130 according to one embodiment of the invention. The live asset management screen 1130 includes the navigation and information area 802, the program guide area 1102 and an edit Nvod channel area 1132. The edit Nvod channel area 1132 allows an administrator 35 to modify an existing channel, such as with respect to channel number, channel name,

device address or port. The edit live channel area 1132 can also allow the administrator to turn a channel on and off.

FIG. 11E is a screenshot of a live asset management screen 1140 according to one embodiment of the invention. The live asset management screen 1140 includes 5 the navigation and system area 802, the program guide area 1102, and a edit live channel area 1142. The edit live channel area 1142 allows an administrator to modify the attributes (properties) of an existing live channel. In particular, the administrator can interact with the edit live channel area 1142 to change channel number, channel name, device address or port. Furthermore, an administrator can also toggle the 10 channel on and off, indicate whether the channel can be paused, and indicate whether the channel can be recorded.

FIG. 11F is a screenshot of a live asset management screen 1150 according to one embodiment of the invention. The live asset management screen 1150 includes the navigation and information area 802, a program guide area 1152, and an add 15 program to the selected live channel area 1154. The program guide area 1152 displays a program guide and allows for the selection of program regions within the program guide. Here, for example, there is an opening in the program guide for channel 3 at the time slot from 2:00 AM to 5:00 AM. The add program to the selected live channel area 1154 allows the administrator to identify a program to be placed in 20 the selected open region within the program guide. In adding the program to the selected live channel, the administrator can enter profile information pertaining to the program, such as title, episode title, category, subcategory, rating, affiliation and description.

FIG. 11G is a screenshot of a live asset management screen 1160 according to 25 one embodiment of the invention. The live asset management screen 1160 includes the navigation and system information area 802, the program guide area 1102, and an edit selected program area 1162. With respect to the selected program "Gone with the Wind" appearing on channel 3 between 2:00 AM and 5:00 AM in the program guide, the selected program can be edited as to its profile information by the administrator 30 using the edit selected program area 1162.

The customer management module of the graphical user interface includes a series of screens that allow an administrator to monitor customer interactions. These screen are depicted in FIGs. 12A – 12H.

FIG. 12A is a screenshot of a customer management screen 1200 according to 35 one embodiment of the invention. The customer management screen 1200 includes the navigation and information area 802, the customer list area 1202, and a customer

profile detail area 1204. The customer list area 1202 displays a customer list which includes those customers of the media system. The customer list typically includes information such as a customer name and customer ID. Additionally, the ordering of the customer list can be varied and searches can be performed on the customer list such as to locate customers by their attributes (e.g., customer ID or name). The customer profile detail area 1204, in this example, provides information (detailed profile) to the administrator about a selected one of the customers from the customer list. Namely, in this example, the detailed profile about the selected customer includes general information, account information, service information, and administrative attention information can be provided.

FIG. 12B is a screenshot of a customer management screen 1210 according to one embodiment of the invention. The customer management screen 1210 includes the navigation and information area 802, the customer list area 1202, and another customer profile area 1212. The customer profile area 1212 includes general information, vault information, secondary account information and administrative attention information pertaining to the selected customer. As compared with the customer management screen 1200, the customer management screen 1210 includes vault information in the customer profile information. The vault information indicates information about programs that have been recorded on behalf of the selected customer. These recorded programs can be either scheduled live programs that are recorded or rented programs that are recorded for a period of time for the customer's benefit. The vault information can also indicate whether the content has been played back from the vault. In other words, the vault represents central media storage for the customers, with each customer (account) having their own personal vault. A customer account can have secondary accounts for other users of the account besides the primary user. The secondary account information indicates any secondary accounts that might be associated with the account. These secondary accounts can have restricted access levels and other limited service. For example, recording or email capabilities could be disabled, Internet capability could be disabled, and limits (e.g., dollar limit) can be set for VOD or NVOD usage.

FIG. 12C is a screenshot of a customer management screen 1220 according to one embodiment of the invention. The customer management screen 1220 includes the navigation and information area 802, the customer list area 1202, and a customer profile detail area 1222. In this representative screenshot, the customer profile detail area 1222 includes general information, customer notes, and administration attention information. The customer notes provide a historical account of customer complaints

and actions taken in response to those complaints so that the administrator can easily review the status of the complaints. In this regard, the customer notes can also indicate whether the status of the complaint is open, in progress, or closed. Besides status, the customer notes can indicate creation date, short description, creator, and possibly a detailed description.

FIG. 12D is a screenshot of a customer management screen 1230 according to one embodiment of the invention. The customer management screen 1230 includes the navigation and information area 802, the customer list area 1202, and an add customers area 1232. When the administrator desires to add a customer to the media system, and thus to the customer list, an add customer button can be selected. Then, in response to such a selection, the customer management screen 1230 can be presented to the administrator. Then, the administrator can interact with the add customers area 1232 to provide information about the customer being added to the media system. Such information pertaining to the customer includes name, address, account information, and services information. With respect to the service information, a customer ID, a login, a password, a PIN number, an effective date, an expiration date, and a selected service package can all be indicated. Here, the selected service package is one of the defined service packages. However, if a customized service package is desired, then a customized service button 1234 can be selected. If the customized service button 1234 is selected, then the customer management screen 1230 is updated to a customer management screen 1240 as illustrated FIG. 12E. The customer management screen 1240 is generally similar to the customer management screen 1230, except that additional selections are able to be made under the services portion of an add customers area 1242. These additional selections pertain to the particular service being supplied to the customer. For example, after the service package is selected, the add customers area 1242 provides the administrator the ability to enhance the selected service package by live channels, internet access, record duration or pause TV. Also, the administrator can select a standard service button 1244 to return to the customer management screen 1230 in which these enhancements to the selected service packages are not illustrated.

FIG. 12F is a screenshot of a customer management screen 1250 according to one embodiment of the invention. The customer management screen 1250 includes the navigation and information area 802, the customer list area 1202, and an edit selected customer area 1252. Here, the administrator can interact with the edit selected customer area 1252 to edit the customer information pertaining to a selected one of the customers. More particularly, as shown in FIG. 12F, the edit selected

customer area 1252 allows the administrator to edit general information, account information or service information pertaining to the selected customer. It should be noted that the service information allows a customer to request a new service arrangement and to allow that new service to begin on an effective date. FIG. 12G is a 5 screen shot of a customer management screen 1260 according to one embodiment of the invention. The customer management screen 1260 includes the navigation and Information area 802, the customer list area 1202, and an edit selected customer area 1262. Here, the edit selected customer area 1262 allows the administrator to review or interact with general information, vault information, and secondary account 10 information. For example, the administrator can interact with the secondary account information to edit the parameters of the secondary accounts, thereby restricting access or setting limits as appropriate. As another example, the administrator can delete entries from the vault on behalf of the customer.

FIG. 12H is a screenshot of a customer management screen 1270 according to 15 another embodiment of the invention. The customer management screen 1270 includes the navigation and information area 802, the customer list area 1202, and an edit selected customer area 1272. Here, the edit selected customer area 1272 includes general information and customer notes. With respect to the customer notes, the administrator is able to interact to review the historical account of complaints and 20 responses as well as to obtain additional detail on such matters. The administrator can also add a note to the customer notes with such note providing a status to particular items.

The device module of the graphical user interface includes a series of screens 25 that allow an administrator to configure devices (e.g., set-top boxes) for the media system. These screens are depicted in FIGS. 13A-13C.

FIG. 13A illustrates a screenshot of a device configuration screen 1300 according to one embodiment of the invention. The device configuration screen 1300 includes the navigation and information area 802, a device list area 1302, and a device profile area 1304. The device list area 1302 includes a device list of those devices 30 associated with the media system. The listing of the devices in the device list can be ordered or searched in a variety of different ways. In addition, one or more of the devices in the device list can be selected for processing. The device configuration screen 1300 facilitates the assigning or unassigning of devices, adding new devices, deleting existing devices, or editing devices. The device profile area 1304 lists profile 35 information for the selected one or more devices in the device list. As illustrated in FIG. 13A, the device profile can include information such as device ID, serial number,

MAC address, IP address, switch port ID, model, status, schedule turn on date, scheduled turn off date, assigned customer ID, customer information, and device list for same customer.

When the administrator selects an assign/edit device button 1306 of the device configuration screen 1300, a device configuration screen 1320 is displayed (presented to the administrator) as illustrated in FIG. 13B. The device configuration screen 1320 is similar to the device configuration screen 1300 except that the device profile area 1304 is replaced with an assign/edit device area 1322. The assign/edit device area 1322 allows the administrator to edit certain device information and to also assign the device to customers. To facilitate the assigning of the device to customers, the assign/edit device area 1322 can include a customer list 1324. The customer list 1324 can be ordered or searched in a variety of ways to facilitate the locating of one or more customers of interest.

When the administrator selects an add device button 1308 from the device configuration screen 1300, a device configuration screen 1340 is displayed (presented to the administrator) as illustrated in FIG. 13C. The device configuration screen 1340 is similar to the device configuration screen 1300 except that the device profile area 1304 is replaced with an add devices area 1342. The add devices area 1342 allows the administrator to enter device information, such as serial number, MAC address, IP address, switch port ID, model, status, schedule turn on date, schedule turn off date. In addition, the add devices area 1342 allows the administrator to designate those customers who need or will utilize the device being added. In this regard, the add devices area 1342 includes a customer list 1344. The customer list 1344 can be searched or ordered in a variety of ways to facilitate the locating of one or more customers of interest.

The billing module of the graphical user interface includes a series of screens that allow an administrator to perform billing functions. These screen are depicted in FIGs. 14A – 14C.

FIG. 14A illustrates a screenshot of a billing information screen 1400 according to one embodiment of the invention. The billing information screen 1400 includes the navigation and information area 802, a billing report area 1402, a customer billing detail area 1404, and a billing correction area 1406. The billing report area 1402 provides a list of customers together with their corresponding account balance information. As shown in FIG. 14A, for each customer there can be displayed information such as customer ID, customer name, address, outstanding balance, and overdue balance. The customer billing detail area 1404 displays detailed billing

information with respect to a selected one of the customers listed in the billing report area 1402. The billing correction area 1406 allows corrections to be made to a customer's billing data. Further, the billing information screen 1400 can include a print report button 1408 which, when pressed, causes a billing statement to be printed

5 (billing report) for at least the selected customer. A representative sample billing statement is illustrated in FIGs. 14B and 14C, where FIG. 14B illustrates the first portion of the billing statement and FIG. 14C represents a second and final portion of the billing statement.

The media system allows subscribers (customers) to interact with the media

10 system through a graphical user interface to receive media content. The graphical user interface can also be referred to as a subscriber-client user interface. A representative subscriber-client user interface is illustrated in FIGs. 15A – 15F. The subscriber-client user interface is presented to subscribers (users) via terminal devices or client machines. As noted above, terminal devices or client machines can include a

15 desktop computer, a laptop or notebook computer, a set-top box, and a mobile device. In one embodiment, the terminal devices or client machines operate a network browser to communicate with the media system via the network.

Referring now to FIG. 15A, there is shown an exemplary main page 1500 that can be downloaded from the media system (server) and displayed on a display screen

20 of a client machine. The main page 1500, sometimes called a media portal, presents an interactive graphical user interface (GUI) may be implemented in one or more markup language (i.e., HTML or XML), scripting languages or Java/Applet applications.

The main page 1500 includes a title bar region 1502, a toolbar region 1504,

25 and a commerce region 1506. Each of the toolbar region 1504 and the commerce region 1506 may include one or more selectable items that allow a user to select a desired service/application being provided by the server.

The title bar region 1502 includes brand information 1508, a subscriber's name

30 1510, and a date/time indication 1512. The brand information 1508 may include the service provider's name and other related information. In one embodiment, the brand information 1508 may include a production company's name or artist's name when a movie or a music piece is played. The subscriber's name 1510 is typically related to a holder of an account in the server and can be a true name or a screen name.

Typically, only after a user is authenticated by the server, is the portal page 1500

35 displayed with the correct name (or a designated screen name) of the user. The

date/time 1512 is preferably synchronized with or provided by the server so that the user knows exactly when a scheduled program will be delivered or broadcast.

The toolbar region 1504 includes a chat button 1514, a help button 1515, a television (TV) button 1516, Media-On-Demand (MOD) button 1517, a web button 1518, an email button 1519, and a vault button 1520. The chat button 1514 is typically used for initiating communication with other users. Generally, there are a number of users accessing the services being provided by the server that can also provide a two-way communication mechanism between or among the users. The help button 1515 is used to initiate a help screen in case a user needs instructions for a particular operation or query. The television (TV) button 1516 is used to initiate a TV program mode. As described above, the server in the present invention is configured to provide multiple services one of which is broadcasting TV programs. When a user selects the television (TV) button 1516 as shown in FIG. 15A, a TV mode screen 1501 is displayed as shown in FIG. 15B. The screen 1501 in FIG. 15B includes a TV action region 1522 and a show action region 1528. The TV action region 1522 provides an interactive GUI that includes a channel button 1523, a program guide button 1524, a scanning button 1525 and a find button 1526 which respectively allow a viewer to change a channel, view a program guide, scan all programs being broadcast and enter a query for locating an interesting program. When a channel, for example, "23" is selected, the show action region 1528 shows relevant information 1529 about the channel, namely a movie "Austin Powers, The Spy who Shagged me" is being played on the channel.

In addition, the show action region 1528 shows a number of user friendly functions that can be requested by the viewer. When a movie is in progress and the viewer has to attend to an unexpected task or errand, a pause button 1530 may be activated to ask the server to "pause" the movie or program and continue the movie or program when the user comes back. Likewise, a record button 1533 can be activated to record a program when the user does not have time to view the program to be broadcast at a certain time. As the name suggests, an INFO button 1531, when activated, provides a brief description of a selected title. An alarm button 1532, when activated, provides a mechanism to notify the user when a scheduled program is on. The notification may be provided in various ways, including a pop-up banner, an audio sound, or an automatic switch to the program.

The commerce region 1506 is uniquely designed to encourage a user to interact with online retailers and to view special promotions. Such online retailers or promotions can be preferably related to a program the user is viewing. Since the

server knows what program is being provided to the subscriber's client machine, suitable commercial information, if available, may be prepared and delivered to the subscriber's client machine. For example, when the user is viewing a golf tournament, the server can collect and package and deliver commercial information related to golf 5 to the client machine. The commerce region 1506 can contain a button which, when pressed or automatically activated, displays the commercial information (e.g., golf equipment for sale).

FIG. 15C shows a corresponding screen 1503 that is displayed when the program guide button 1524 is selected. The screen 1503 includes a focused program 10 guide 1540 centered at a current time bar 1542. With a scroll bar 1538, a user can navigate all the channels being provided by the server. According to one embodiment, the program guide shows only the channels that are selected or subscribed to by the user when a service agreement was arranged with the server. Consequently, not only does the user does not have to pay for those channels that are never viewed, but also 15 the program guide provided to the user contains only relevant channels that are of interest to the user. For example, the program guide being displayed in FIG. 15C provides programming information for channels 23, 24 and 25 which are all channels that the user receives. Hence, the program guide provided to users can be limited to providing information on those of the channels that the users receive. Also, the users 20 may further customize their program guides to reorder the listing of channels, hide other channels, etc. so that the program guides better suit their viewing habits or preferences.

Different from program guides in the prior art systems, the program guide 1540 does not automatically scroll upward or downward rather stays on the current time bar 25 1542 so the viewer immediately distinguish what programs have been/are being/will be played on the channels. As described above, the program guide 1540 is updated at the server side and may be downloaded at request or automatically at determinable times controlled by the media delivery center. Hence, at any time, the program guide 1540 has the current time bar focused on the programs being serviced. According to 30 one embodiment, the number of hours before or after the current time bar 1542 can be configured by the viewer. Additionally, the program guide 1540 can be manually scrolled while the current time bar 1542 stays on the programs being played in the channels.

FIG. 15D shows a screen 1505 that is displayed when the scanning button 35 1525 is selected. The screen 1505 includes a program table for a channel (e.g., channel "23"), the table may include all programs for a day, a week or a month.

FIG. 15E shows a screen 1507 when the Find button 1526 is selected. The screen 1507 includes an entry area 1550 that allows a viewer to enter his/her preferences 1551 to facilitate a search in one or more channels. Depending on an exact implementation, the screen 1507 may also include an entry area 1550 in which 5 the viewer may type in one or more keywords to facilitate a search in one or more channels.

The server also provides a Media-on-Demand (MOD) service that is initiated by selecting the MOD button 1517 for a MOD mode. The MOD service permits a viewer to view a list of stored assets (e.g., movies and news) available in the server and then 10 select and pay for a selected one of the stored assets. FIG. 15F shows a screen 1509 that is displayed when the MOD button 1016 is selected. The screen 1509 includes a contents area 1556 that includes a list of titles that can be accessed by the viewer. In this example, the titles or media pertains to movies. According to a preferred embodiment, each of the titles listed in the contents area 1556 displays an image 15 15 thereof so that the viewer may immediately understand the nature of the available titles. When one of the titles in the contents area 1556 is selected (e.g., movie 20 is selected), a price banner 1558 is displayed to inform the viewer of the cost is to view the selected title and permits the viewer to make a final decision. If the user proceeds with the selection, the selected title will be delivered (e.g., streamed) from the server to 20 the terminal device or client machine associated with the viewer. Accordingly, the corresponding account on the server is updated, for example, to incur the charge, record the time when the title is delivered and the name of the title, etc.

Referring now back to FIG. 15A, it is shown that the web button 1518 is also selectable. When a user prefers to navigate the Internet, the web button 1518 can be 25 activated so as to launch a browser to permit the user to interact with all resources available over the Internet. The server in this mode acts like an Internet Service Provider (ISP). Similarly, an email application screen can be displayed when the user activates the email button 1519. The email application enables users to compose and send or receive and read email messages. Here, the server (media system) manages 30 the reception and delivery of messages on the behalf of users. The vault button 1520, when activated, displays a list of items (e.g., recorded media) specially available to the account holder. Examples of the items may include a video bookmark, a list of recorded contents requested by the user or forwarded by other subscribers. The video bookmark is used to store links to interesting programs that the viewer may want to 35 review from time to time. Generally, the programs that can be bookmarked are those that are in the stored assets in the server. Hence, each of the links includes

information on where the programs are located in the stored assets. According to one embodiment, each of the items being displayed is embedded with a link (e.g., a hyperlink) to a storage location in the server where the item is stored. When one of the items is selected by the user, namely the link is activated, the content pointed to by 5 the link may be caused to be selected for delivery or to be delivered.

It should be noted that FIGs. 15A-15E are exemplary screens that may be displayed on a display screen of a client machine. Different implementations may lead to different layout of the screens, some items may be omitted while others may be added. Various configurations and layouts may be possible in view of the above 10 description. Further it should be noted that, even for a server servicing a number of subscribers, the layout of the screens may not be necessarily the same for all subscribers. Depending on an implementation and a subscriber's preference, some of the screens for one user may be different than those of another. One of the features in the present invention is the flexibility provided in the media management unit that can 15 be not only customized by the media system according to one's business models and needs but also by its subscribers who can decide what channels are included in their own service package.

FIG. 16A shows a function block diagram 1600 of a media management system accordingly to one embodiment of the invention and may be understood in 20 conjunction with exemplary screens illustrated in FIGs. 8A - 14C. The media management system is, for example, the media management system 205 illustrated in FIG. 2A.

A portal to the block diagram 1600 is the login/administration control interface 1602 from which an operator or administrator can manage the operations of the media 25 delivery center. The login/administration control interface 1602 may be implemented with a markup language or a script language, such as XML or Java. In one embodiment, the login/administration control interface 1602 is inherently coupled to a commercial database, such as those provided Oracle Corporation and provides a mechanism for the administrator to enter/update/manage data in the database via a 30 number of modules that may be also implemented with a markup or a script language such as Java.

A customer management module 1602 is responsible for creating accounts for new subscribers, setting up service packages therefor, and managing/updating all 35 accounts serviced by the media system. In addition, the customer management module 1602 permits multiple sub-accounts under a general account, which is particular useful to a family with one or more minors.

FIG. 16B shows a relationship 1620 between an adult account 1622 and sub-accounts 1624 and 1626. The adult account 1622 and sub-accounts 1624 and 1626 can be opened under a family account and charged as a single account. Through the customer management module 1602, the adult account 1622 can access full services 5 1628 subscribed under the family account while the minor accounts 1624 and 1626 are permitted to access limited services 1629 and 1630 (e.g., a reduced number of channels, record restrictions, etc.) within the full services 1628. This can be achieved by permitting only selected channel access when the minor account is opened (see FIG. 12B). According to one embodiment, each of the minor accounts 1624 and 1626 10 can be configured to access different levels of limited services, thereby a minor receives only programs that are appropriate to his/her age.

According to one implementation, the adult can place one or more selected programs into the minor accounts when the programs are deemed proper to the minors. The selected programs may include recorded programs forwarded by the 15 adult or some programs on the channels that are generally not available to the minors. In other words, the adult can archive a program and place the newly created entry in the minor's library index list, thereby the minor will see the entry and access the archived program by the adult. FIG.12B shows an exemplary list as the vault information displayed by an administrator. FIG. 16C show an exemplary library index 20 list 1632 of the vault information for a sub-account hold (e.g., a minor) that may be displayed on a client machine. The exemplary library index list 1632 can be displayed after the Vault button 1520 is selected. The account holder, here a sub-account holder, can then choose to play a desired program in the library index list 1632. The library index list 1632 comprises individual entries, each identifying one archived 25 program along with information on when the program was archived, the title thereof, and who made the request to archive the program. According to one embodiment, each of the entries in the list 1632 can be embedded with a link that can be activated to retrieve an archived program. The link typically includes location information of where the program is stored in a storage device in the server. Upon a program being 30 selected, the link is activated to generate a request in a client machine to retrieve the program from the storage device and causes the client machine to play the program.

Referring back to FIG. 16A, a client device management module 1604 is accessed to record what type of client machines the media delivery center is providing services to by: serial number, corresponding IP address and MAC address, customer 35 name and address and status, etc. The type of client machines is, for example, useful to enable the media management system to deliver programs formatted suitable to a

display screen thereof. For example, the client machine is a computer monitor with VGA settings. According to the recorded client machine information, the program being delivered thereto is resized to 640 by 480. The resizing may be based on an interpolation process that may be implemented in software, hardware or a combination of both. A bill report module 1606 is coupled to the customer management module 1602 and determines how much each account has incurred during a predefined period. An asset management module 1608 permits the administrator to manage all stored assets. Examples include (i) deletion of certain stored programs when they are no longer popular or expired with respect to terms reached with the original sources thereof and (ii) add/update programs in storage.

An administration management module 1610 permits the owner of the media system to determine who has the authority or levels of configuration authority to access the media system. A system setting module 1612, as illustrated in FIGs. 8A-8E, manages all the channels being serviced to the subscribers. A system status overview 1614 is typically used to report what channels that are more popular than others among the subscribers, operational status of each of the channels being serviced, each subscriber's transaction and time duration, and popularity of programs. In one embodiment, the system status overview 1614 is configured to work with the setting module 1612 to closely monitor a load balance of the system. Typically, a system is configured to support a predefined number of users while the total number of subscribers may be larger. In some rare occasions all of the subscribers are logged on and hence the system may be overloaded. To prevent a system from being overloaded, load balancing 1613 can initiate a backup system that may be an identical system located within or remotely with respect to the current system. In addition, a channel security 1615 is used to initiate one or more secure sessions to the users depending the delivery mode. For example, in unicast or multicast mode, it is preferable to provide programs in a secure mode so that the programs being delivered to the users will not be intercepted by other users. The method to provide a secure communication session is well known in the art. One of the examples is to simply scramble the programs so that only the designated users can receive the programs. A rate/service management 1616 is accessed to setup price information for services being offered to the subscribers as illustrated in FIGs. 9A-9D.

A commercial information management module 1618 allows the administrator to manage the commercial information received from various sources and deliver the commercial information objectively. For example, with the customer management module 1602 and the system status overview module 1614, the commercial

information management module 1618 can be configured to associate some of the commercial information with the programs being delivered to the subscribers. A message control 1619 is used to initiate a broadcasting of urgent programs that are not normally scheduled. The programs are typically encoded with high priority over other programs. One example of an urgent program is a natural disaster notification. The form of the program may be an emergency clip that may be in audio, video, text or image. Upon receiving in the client machines, the urgent programs can be immediately noticed by users of the client machines. For example, an image containing urgent messages can be overlaid on a regular program being watched by the users.

The invention is preferably implemented in software or hardware or a combination of both. At least portions of the invention can also be embodied as computer readable code on a computer readable medium. The computer readable medium is any data storage device that can store data that can be thereafter be read by a computer system. Examples of the computer readable medium include read-only memory, random-access memory, disk drives, floppy disks, CD-ROMs, DVDs, magnetic tape, optical data storage devices, carrier waves. The computer readable media can also be distributed over network coupled computer systems so that the computer readable code is stored and executed in a distributed fashion.

The advantages of the invention are numerous. Different embodiments or implementations may yield one or more of the following advantages. One advantage of the invention is that a media system has integrated various services for the benefit of administrators and service providers. Another advantage of the invention is that the media system has a flexible design that can be customized to fit service providers business needs. Still another advantage of the invention is that the media system is a centralized system that can support both live and on-demand services for many subscribers. Yet another advantage of the invention is that the media system has a flexible design that can enable subscribers to customized their program guides, services packages (including pause and record services), and the like.

The many features and advantages of the present invention are apparent from the written description and, thus, it is intended by the appended claims to cover all such features and advantages of the invention. Further, since numerous modifications and changes will readily occur to those skilled in the art, it is not desired to limit the invention to the exact construction and operation as illustrated and described. Hence, all suitable modifications and equivalents may be resorted to as falling within the scope of the invention.

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A media delivery center for delivery of media to users over a network, said media delivery center comprising:
 - 5 a media receiving unit, said media receiving unit being configured to receive media from one or more media sources;
 - a media storage device, said media storage device being configured to store at least certain of the media being received by said media receiving unit;
 - a media management unit operatively connected to said media receiving unit
 - 10 and said media storage device, said media management unit being configured to manage reception of the media from the one or more media sources, storage of at least the certain of the media in said media storage device, scheduling delivery of media from said media storage device to users; and
 - media delivery hardware operatively connecting said media management unit
 - 15 to the network to facilitate the delivery of media from said media storage device to users.
2. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein said media receiving unit can receive said media in both digital and analog formats.
3. A media delivery center as recited in claim 2, wherein the digital and analog
- 20 formats include a TV broadcast, a satellite broadcast, a cable broadcast, a digital video broadcast, and an Internet broadcast.
4. A media delivery center as recited in claim 2, wherein the digital format includes a compressed format.
5. A media delivery center as recited in claim 2, wherein the media is
- 25 retransmitted over the network in accordance with a communication protocol.
6. A media delivery center as recited in claim 6, wherein the network is a data network and the communication protocol is selected from a group consisting of: HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol), RTP (Real-Time Transport Protocol), RTSP (Real-Time Stream Control Protocol), IP (Internet Protocol), SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)
- 30), RSVP (Reservation Protocol) differential services, and H.323 (Audio/Video/Data Standard).
7. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein the media includes live media, and
 - wherein said media management unit is further configured to enable an
 - 35 administrator to schedule delivery of the live media from said media storage device.

8. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein said media management unit is further configured to produce a program guide based on the media scheduled for delivery by the administrator.
9. A media delivery center as recited in claim 8, wherein the program guide includes a current-time bar indicating programs in said media being currently retransmitted over the network.
10. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein said media management unit is further configured to produce program guides based on the media scheduled for delivery, and wherein different ones of the program guides are accessible to different one of the users depending on at least one of user preferences and service package.
11. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein said media management unit maintains an individual account for each of the users; and wherein each of the users can customize the corresponding individual account.
12. A media delivery center as recited in claim 11, wherein each of the users can customize said program guides so that only selected channels with specified time ranges will be delivered to the corresponding client machines.
13. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein the media includes live media, and wherein said media storage device further stores non-live media.
14. A media delivery center as recited in claim 13, wherein said media management unit controls delivery of at least certain of the live media to the users, and controls delivery of certain of the non-live media to the users on-demand or nearly on-demand.
15. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein a plurality of modules are integrated within said media management unit, said modules include at least:
 - 25 a service packaging and pricing module for configuring service packages available to the users and for setting prices for the service packages;
 - a transaction module for monitoring transactions with users;
 - a billing module for managing billing the users; and
 - a customer management module for managing customer access to individual accounts.
16. A media delivery center as recited in claim 15, wherein said modules further include :
 - a vault module for separately managing storage of user-initiated stored media for each of the users.
- 35 17. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein a plurality of modules are integrated within said media management unit, said modules include at least:

a pause module for permitting the users to pause particular media being currently transmitted over the network to the users; and

a record module for permitting the users to record one or more programs in said media.

5 18. A media delivery center as recited in claim 1, wherein the users are associated with client devices, and wherein the clients devices are chosen from the group consisting of: personal computers, portable computers, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), set-top boxes, television sets and hand-held computers.

10 19. A method for delivery media programs from a central location to multiple subscribers, said method comprising:

configuring subscribers to receive delivery of a selected set of the media programs over a network, wherein the media programs are received from different sources and different formats;

setting service packages respectively for each of the users;

15 reformatting the media programs to one or more predefined formats suitable for transporting over the network or for proper display on client devices used respectively by the multiple subscribers;

storing the media programs in a central media store; and

20 delivering a selected set of the media programs in the central media store over the network to one or more of the subscribers.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein each of the subscribers receives the selected set of the programs from a respective client machine that is associated with an address identifier, and wherein said delivering is in accordance with said address identifier.

25 21. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises:

receiving a request for delivery of a media-on-demand request from a particular subscriber, the media-on-demand request including an index identifying one of the media programs stored in the central media store, and

30 wherein said delivering operates to unicast the one of the media programs to the particular subscriber.

22. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the media programs includes live content, and

wherein said delivering operates to multicast certain of the medial programs to a selected group of the subscribers.

35 23. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the media programs are provided over a plurality of channels, and

wherein said setting of the service packages comprises assigning selected ones of the channels to be included in the service packages and setting price options for each of the selected ones of the channels.

24. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein said method further comprises rendering program guides available to the subscribers, the program guides being based on the one of the service packages associated with the subscribers.
- 5 25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein said method further comprises enabling the subscribers to customize the program guides so that only selected channels desired by the user will be shown in the program guides.
- 10 26. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein the different sources are from at least one of (i) a television source, (ii) a satellite source, (iii), an Internet source and (iv) a digital video broadcast.
27. A media delivery center for delivery of media to users over a network, the media delivery center comprising:
 - 15 a media receiving unit, the media receiving unit being configured to receive the media in a first format from one or more media sources;
 - a media platform, coupled to the media receiving unit and receiving the media therefrom, transforming the media a second format suitable for transporting over the network;
 - 20 a media storage device coupled to the media platform, said media storage device being configured to store at least certain of the transformed media from the media platform; and
 - 25 a media management server, coupled to the media platform, configured to control the media platform how to transform the received media in the first format to the second format so that the transformed media can be optimally delivered over the network to the users.
28. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27, wherein the one or more media sources include at least one of (i) a television source, (ii) a satellite source, (iii), an Internet source, (iv) a digital video broadcast and (v) a locally supplied source.
- 30 29. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27, wherein each of the first format and the second format is either in digital or analog.
30. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27, wherein the network is a packet-switched network.
31. A media delivery center as recited in claim 30, wherein both of the first format and the second format are in digital but in a different encoding rate.
- 35

32. A media delivery center as recited in claim 31, wherein the media platform is configured to transcode the received media in the first format to the second format according to a predefined rate optimally supported in the packet-switched network.
33. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27, wherein the media management is configured to perform operations of:
 - 5 maintaining a plurality of user accounts, each associated with one of the users;
 - managing a proper set of programs in the media to be delivered to each of the users; and
- 10 enabling the one of the users to access his/her account over the network to customize service options previously set up thereto.
34. A media delivery center as recited in claim 33, wherein the media management is configured to perform further operations of:
 - 15 providing a program guide to each of the users, the program is embedded with a current-time bar indicating what programs in the media being currently delivered to the each of the users;
 35. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27, wherein the media management is configured to perform operations of:
 - monitoring operational status of the media delivery center; and
 - 20 initiating a backup system to support the media delivery center when a number of the users is exceeding a predefined number of the users that could be supported by the media delivery center.
 36. A media delivery center as recited in claim 35, wherein the backup system is coupled to the media delivery center through the network and comprises at least a portion of functions provided by the media management so that some of the users can be serviced by the backup system.
 - 25
 37. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27, wherein the media management is configured to perform operations of:
 - broadcasting an urgent program to each of the users, the urgent program having a priority higher than the media being currently delivered to the users so that the urgent program can be noticed by each of the users when the urgent program arrives.
 - 30
 38. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27 further comprises a transmission equipment coupled to the media storage device, the transmission equipment receiving the media stored in the media storage device and caused to deliver the media to the
 - 35

users in a transmission mode selected from a group consisting of unicasting, multicasting and broadcasting.

39. A media delivery center as recited in claim 38, wherein the network is a data network and wherein the transmission equipment includes a network interface 5 facilitating data communication from the transmission equipment to the data network.

40. A media delivery center as recited in claim 39, wherein the network interface is configured to support at least one of (i) HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol), RTP (Real-Time Transport Protocol), (ii) RTSP (Real-Time Stream Control Protocol), (iii) IP (Internet Protocol), (iv) SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) and (v) H.323 10 (Audio/Video/Data Standard).

41. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27 wherein the media storage device includes at least one video server.

42. A media delivery center as recited in claim 27, 15 wherein a designated space in the media storage device is allocated for storing commercial programs, each indexed and registered with the media management server;

wherein the media management server maintains a plurality of subscriber accounts, each configured to record what services a corresponding subscriber has received; and

- 20 wherein the media management server is configured to select one or more of the commercial programs for delivery together with the media being delivered to the users according to each of the subscriber accounts.

43. A media delivery center as recited in claim 42, wherein the commercial programs can be in an audio, video, or image format and shown substantially close to 25 the media being delivered to the users.

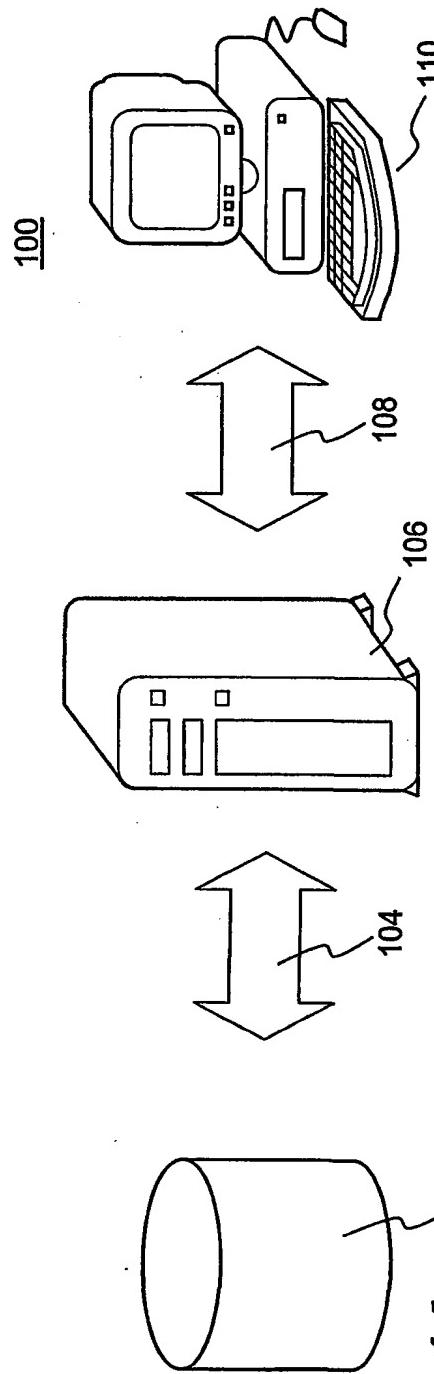


Fig. 1A

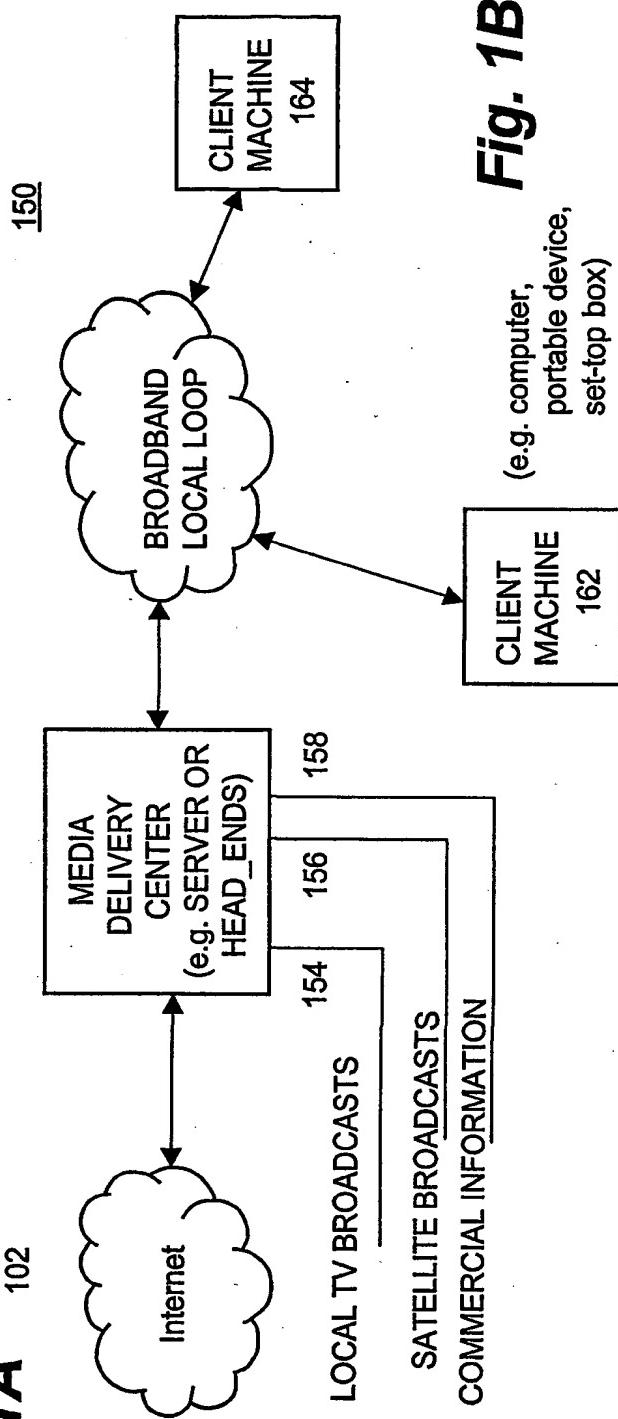


Fig. 1B

(e.g. computer,
portable device,
set-top box)

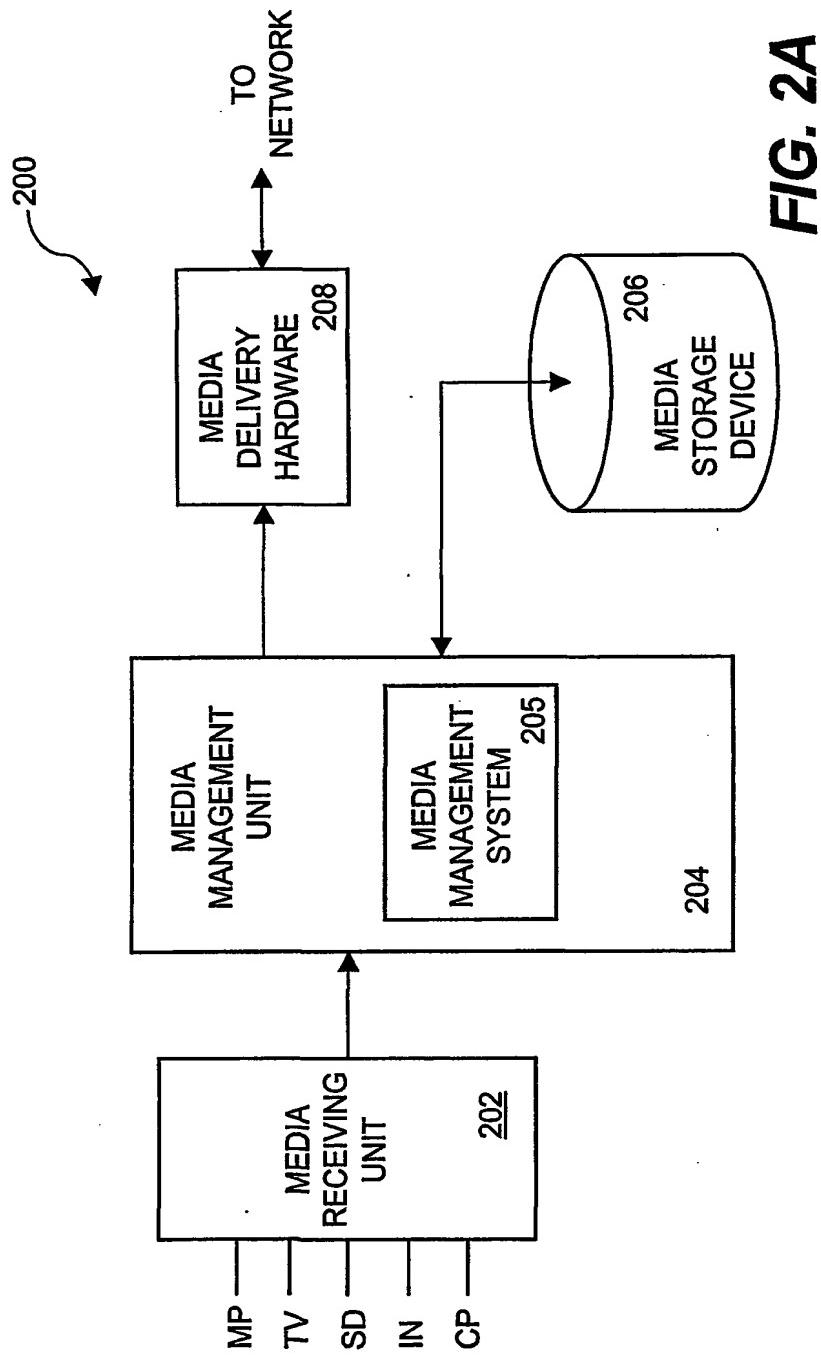
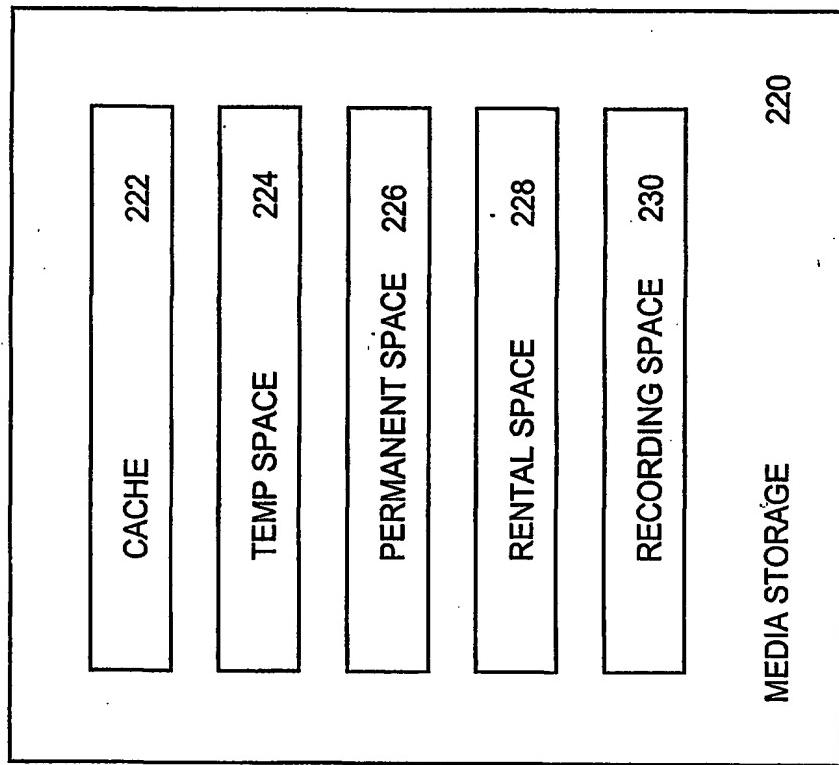
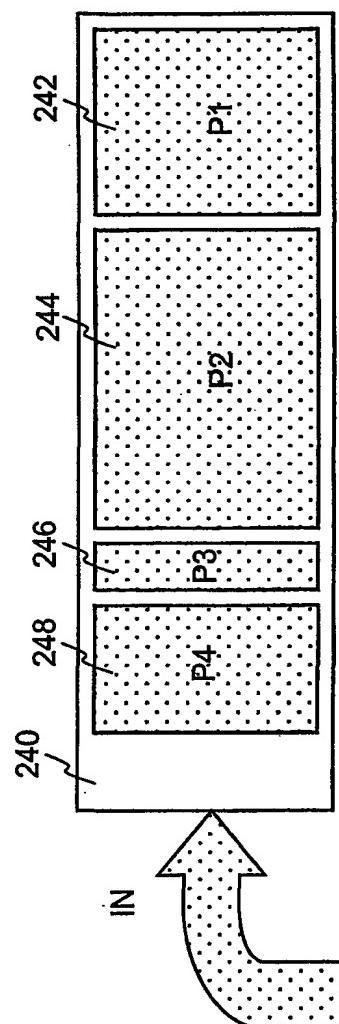
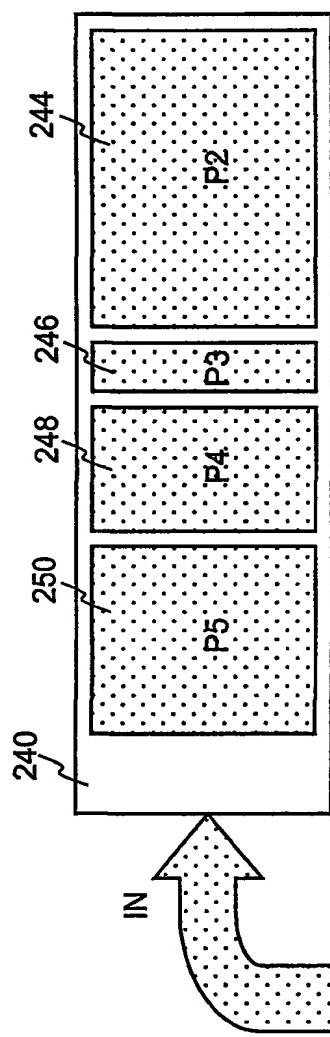
**FIG. 2A**

FIG. 2B

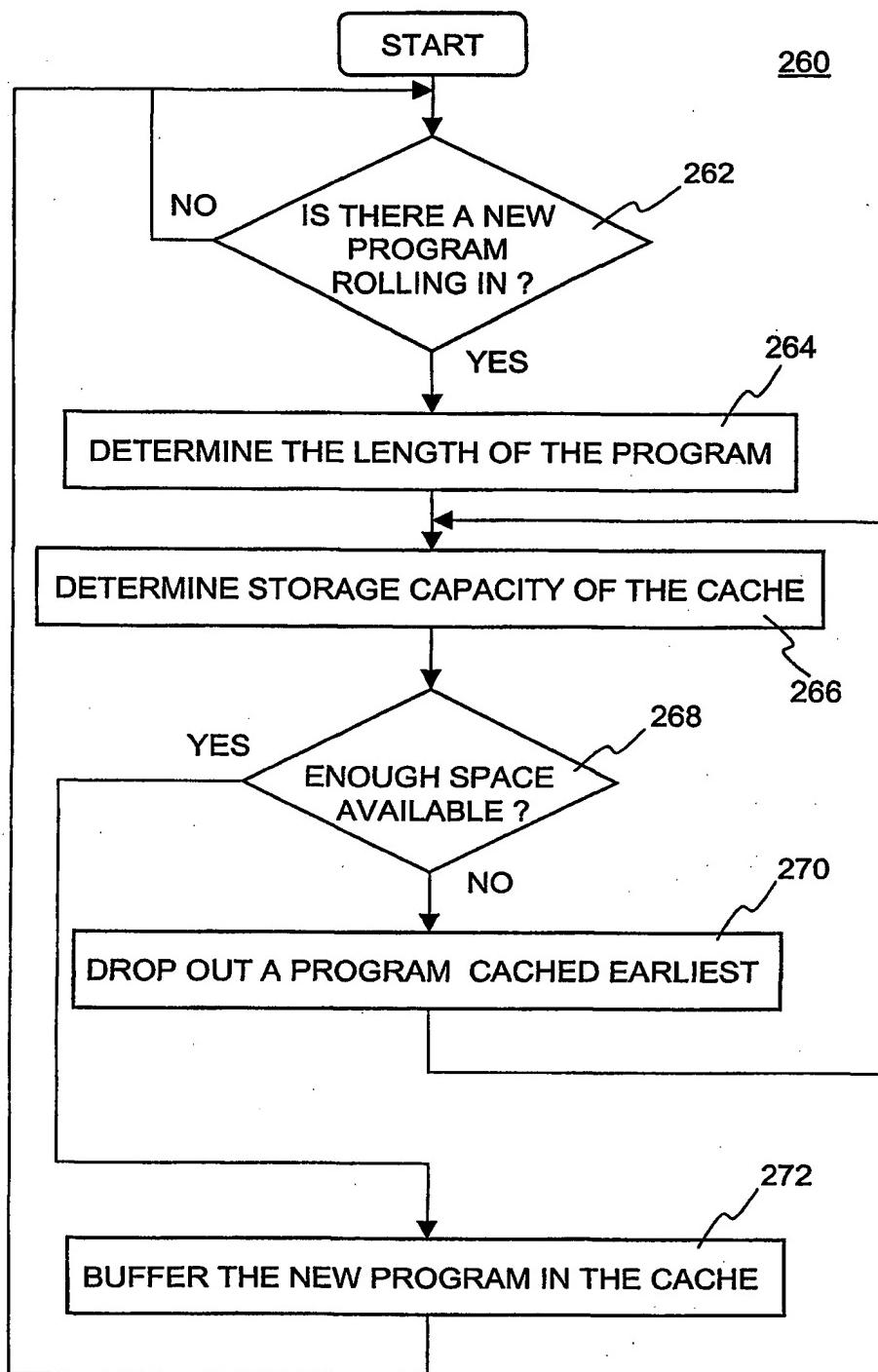


F/G. 2C

STREAMING TO CLIENT MACHINES

F/G. 2D

STREAMING TO CLIENT MACHINES

5/68**FIG. 2E**

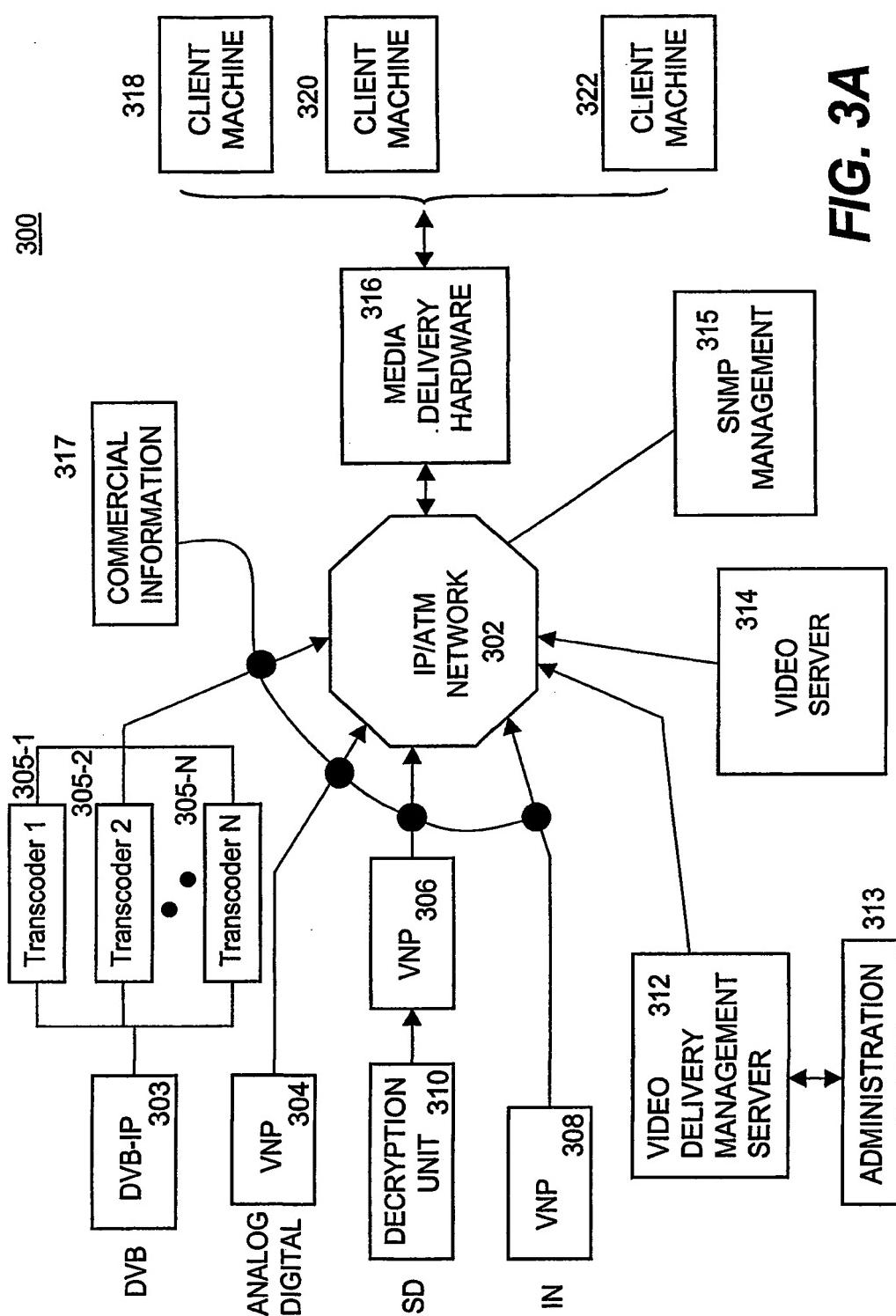
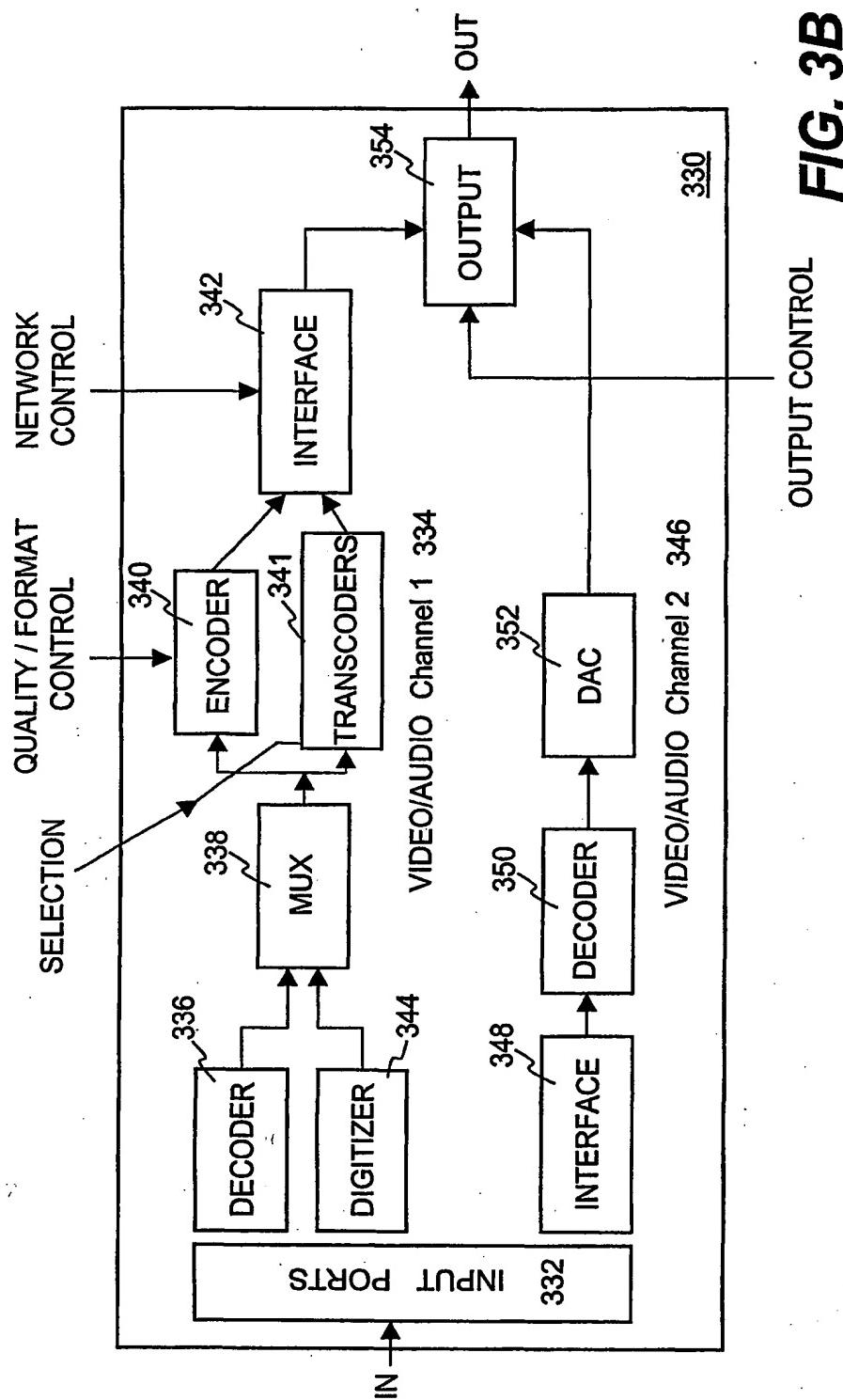


FIG. 3A

**FIG. 3B**

Main View						
Address	HostName	Status	MPEG Type	Video Bit rate	Streaming To	SAP Name
10.28.1.22	VNP	* ERROR *				
192.168.1.111	vnp111	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec				
192.168.1.166	vnp111	* ERROR *				
192.168.1.165	VNP	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec				
192.168.1.170	VNP	* ERROR *				
192.168.1.173	VNP	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec				
192.168.1.182	vnp182	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec	Unknown	0.00Mbps	225.1.1.173:21731	173
192.168.1.184	VNP	* ERROR *	½ D1-MPEG 2	2.00mBPS	225.1.1.202:2001 / 1	184:202
192.168.1.197	VNP	* ERROR *				
192.168.1.199	VNP	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec				
192.168.1.200	VNP	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec				
192.168.1.202	VNP	* ERROR *				
192.168.1.203	VNP	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec				
192.168.1.227	QA	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec				
192.168.1.228	VNP	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec				
192.168.1.237	VNP	* ERROR *				
192.168.1.244	VNP	Enc <input type="checkbox"/> Dec	Unknown	0.50Mbps	225.1.1.244:2001/1	244:248

FIG. 3C

Encoder Channel		Decoder Channel																			
Control		Control																			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Manual	<input type="radio"/> Schedule from <table border="1"><tr><td>6</td><td>/8</td><td>/2000</td><td>18</td><td>:</td><td>16</td></tr></table> to <table border="1"><tr><td>6</td><td>/8</td><td>/2001</td><td>18</td><td>:</td><td>16</td></tr></table>	6	/8	/2000	18	:	16	6	/8	/2001	18	:	16	<input type="radio"/> SAP Name: <input type="text"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Close Caption						
6	/8	/2000	18	:	16																
6	/8	/2001	18	:	16																
<input type="checkbox"/> Preview	<input type="checkbox"/> VTR	Status: Idle	Status: idle																		
<input type="checkbox"/> VTR	<input type="checkbox"/> VTTC	Start Stop	Start Stop																		
Destination		VTR																			
IP: <table border="1"><tr><td>225.1.155</td><td>2001</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Storage</td></tr></table>		225.1.155	2001	<input type="checkbox"/> Storage	Time Code From: <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Set</td></tr></table> To: <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Set</td></tr></table> Duration: <table border="1"><tr><td>30</td><td>sec</td></tr></table>		:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Set	:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Set	30	sec							
225.1.155	2001	<input type="checkbox"/> Storage																			
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Set																			
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Set																			
30	sec																				
<input type="checkbox"/> Use IP above for Unicast SAP		Current: <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Get</td></tr></table> Cue: <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Cue</td></tr></table>		:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get	:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cue												
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get																			
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cue																			
Parameters		<< <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Get</td></tr></table> >> <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Cue</td></tr></table> ^ <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Cue</td></tr></table> >> <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Get</td></tr></table> << <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Get</td></tr></table> >> <table border="1"><tr><td>:00</td><td>:</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> Cue</td></tr></table>		:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get	:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cue	:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cue	:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get	:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get	:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cue
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get																			
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cue																			
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cue																			
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get																			
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Get																			
:00	:	<input type="checkbox"/> Cue																			
No Video		Cue step: <table border="1"><tr><td>1</td><td>Frames</td></tr></table>		1	Frames																
1	Frames																				
Video Bit rate: <table border="1"><tr><td>15.1</td><td>Mb/s</td></tr></table>		15.1	Mb/s	Advanced...																	
15.1	Mb/s																				
Logout	<input type="checkbox"/> Reboot	Mode: <input type="checkbox"/> Encoder <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decoder	Save Retrieve Refresh <input type="checkbox"/> Auto System Settings																		

FIG. 3D

Encoder Advanced Setting

Encoder - Advanced Settings	
Video Input: <input type="radio"/> Composite <input type="radio"/> S-Video Standard: <input type="radio"/> NTSC <input type="radio"/> PAL Input Mode: <input type="radio"/> Consumer <input type="radio"/> Professional	
Network SAP: <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> IP Address: <input type="radio"/> 224.2.127.254 <input type="radio"/> Port: 9875 Multicast TTL: <input type="radio"/> 4 <input type="radio"/> Description: <input type="text"/>	
URL: <input type="text"/> Email <input type="text"/> Phone <input type="text"/>	
Audio Bitrate: <input type="radio"/> 224000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Audio On	
Input Mode: <input type="radio"/> Analog <input type="radio"/> Mono <input type="radio"/> Stereo <input type="radio"/> 44.1KHz <input type="radio"/> 48KHz Sampling: <input type="radio"/> 32KHz <input type="radio"/> 44.1KHz <input type="radio"/> 48KHz Input Gain: <input type="radio"/> 0dB <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Mux Bitrate: <input type="radio"/> 4646400 bps [estimated] <input type="radio"/> Type: <input type="radio"/> System <input type="radio"/> Program <input type="radio"/> Transport	
<input type="button" value="Cancel"/> <input type="button" value="OK"/> Warning: Applet Window	

FIG. 3E

System Settings

Ethernet

IP Address: Subnet Mask:

DNS Server:
Gateway Address:
Domain Name:
Host Name:
Description:

Auto-discovery

On IP Address:
 Port: 10231

System Date and Time

Set

Reset to default settings Restore state on reboot

Set [changes take effect on reboot]

Warning: Applet Window

FIG. 3F

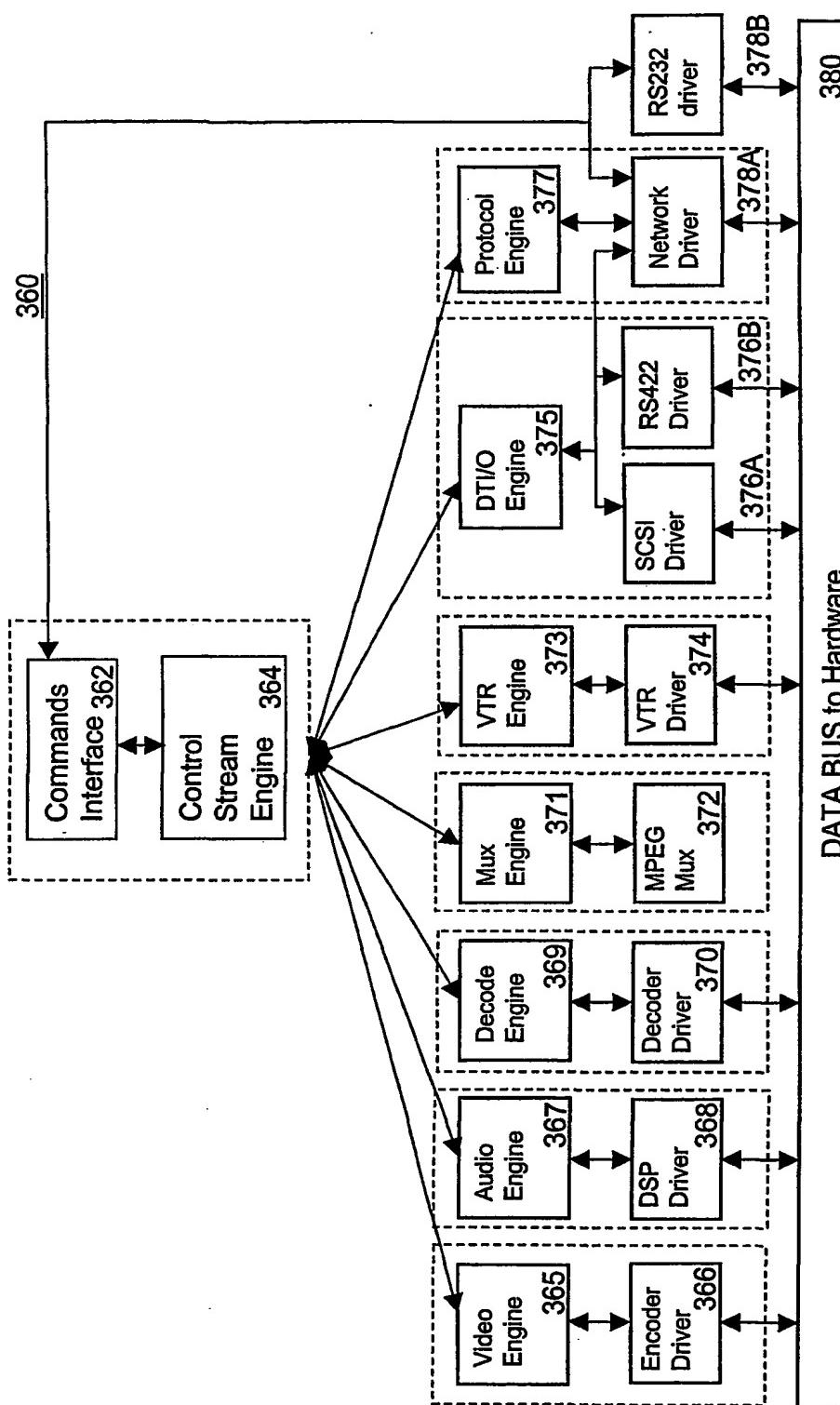


FIG. 3G

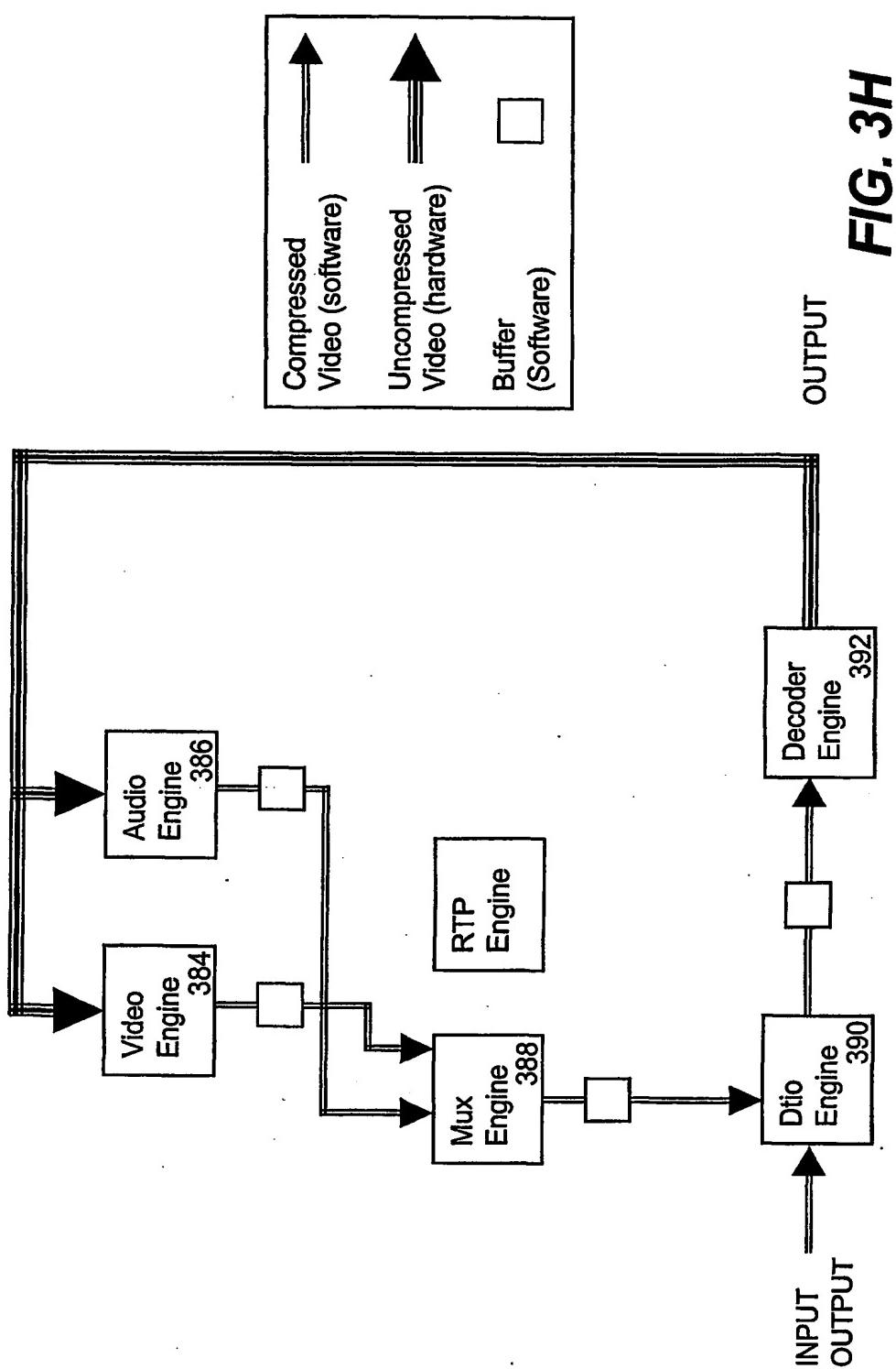
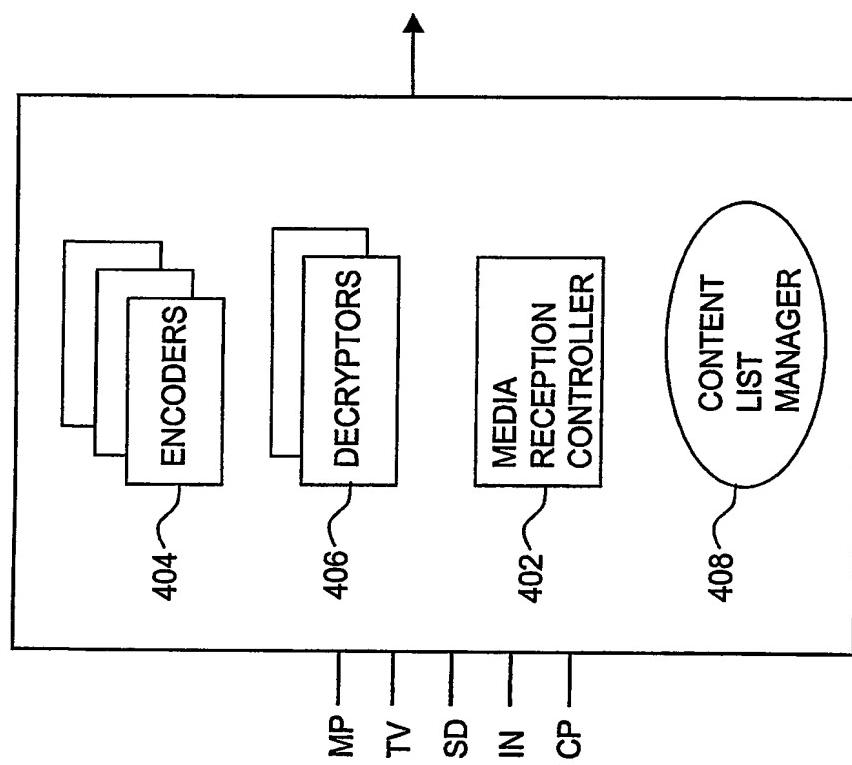
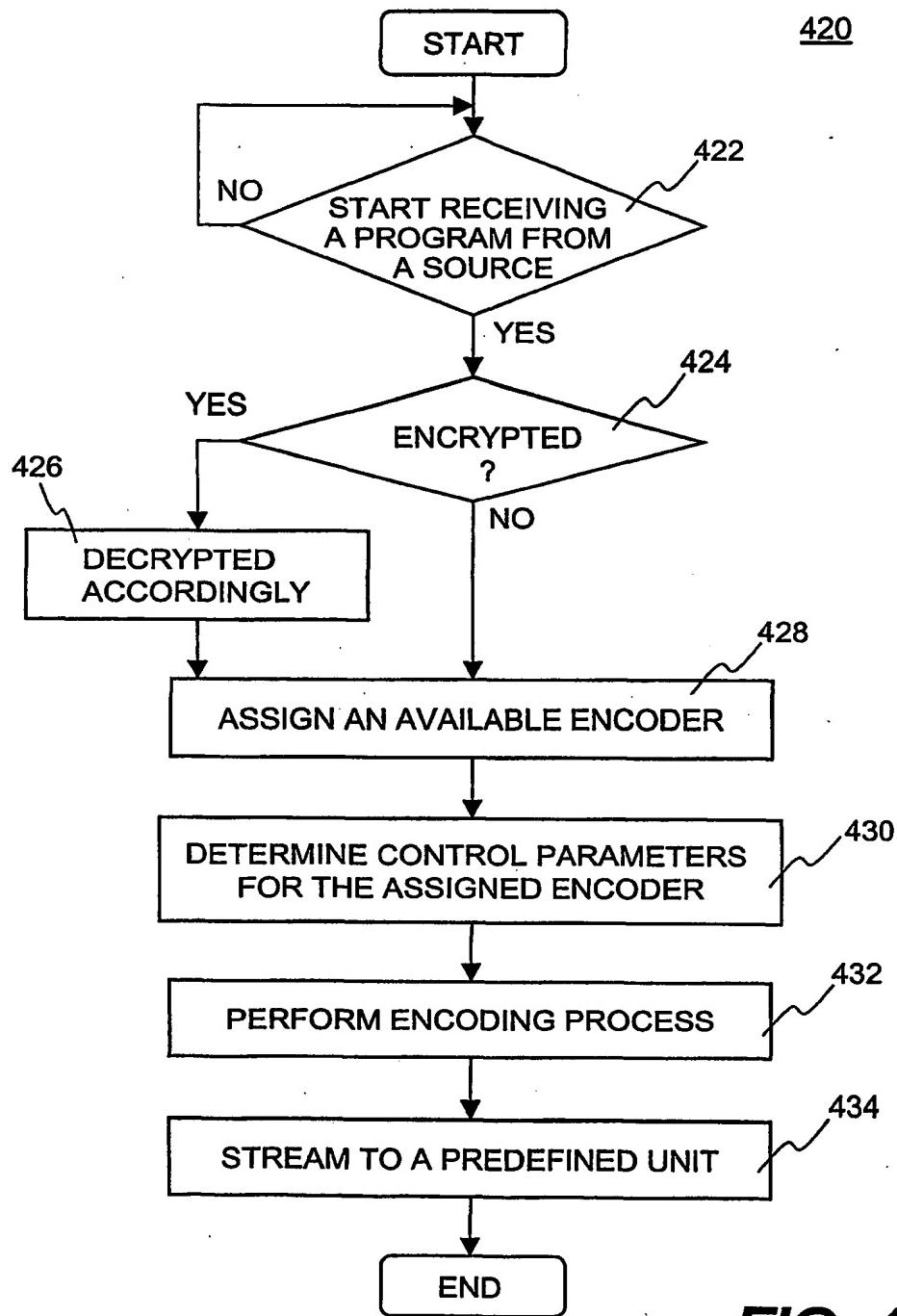


FIG. 3H

FIG. 4A



15/68**FIG. 4B**

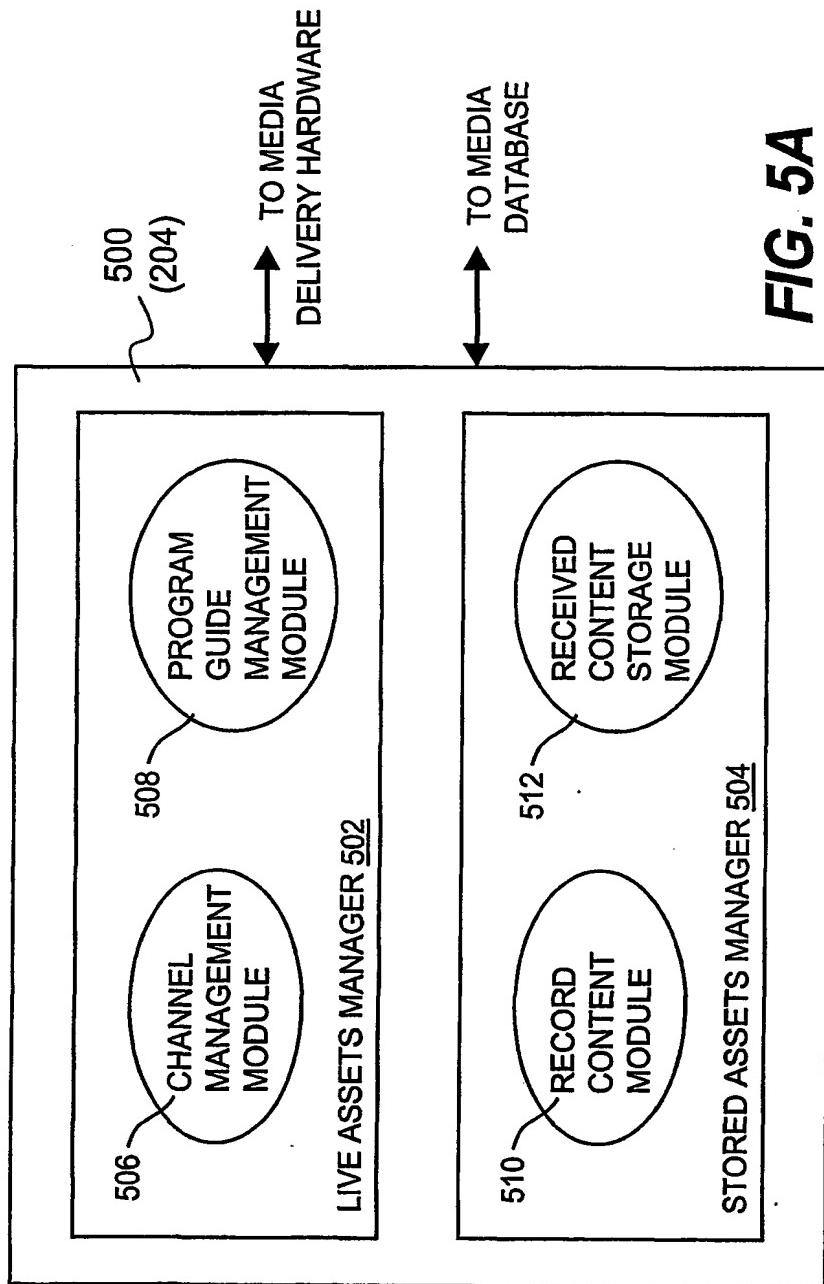


FIG. 5A

TIME	Channel 1	• • •	Channel 23	Channel 24	Channel 25
6:30 PM	Infomercial		News	Local News	Discussions
7:00 PM	News				Paid programming
7:30 PM	Travel		Friends	Jeopardy	
8:00 PM	Politics		Austin Powers	The Matrix	Hot Topics
8:30 PM	Mission Impossible II		The Spy who Shagged me	Paid programming	Health
9:00 PM					Health
9:30 PM	Comedy		Animal Planet		Adults

FIG. 5B

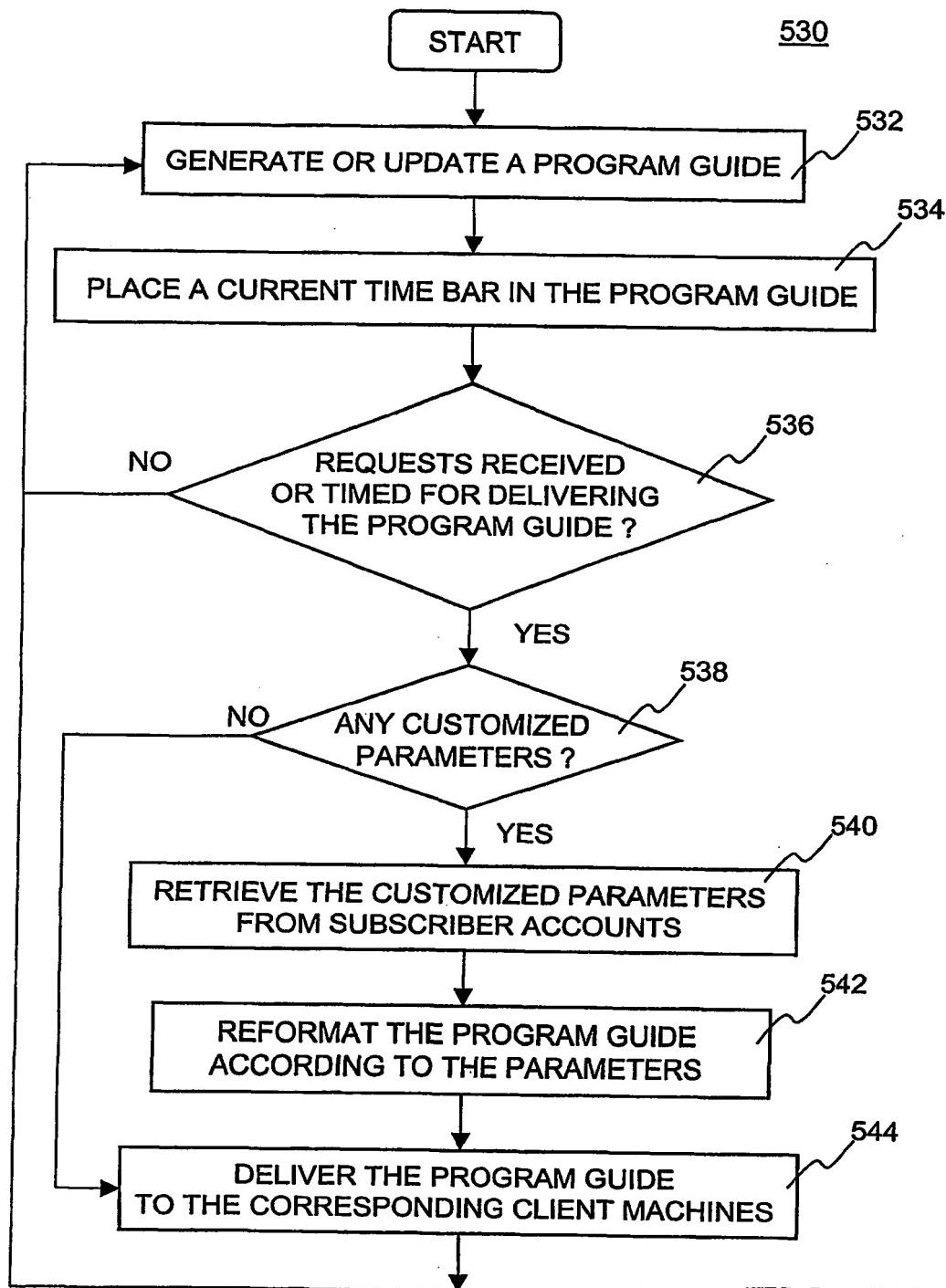
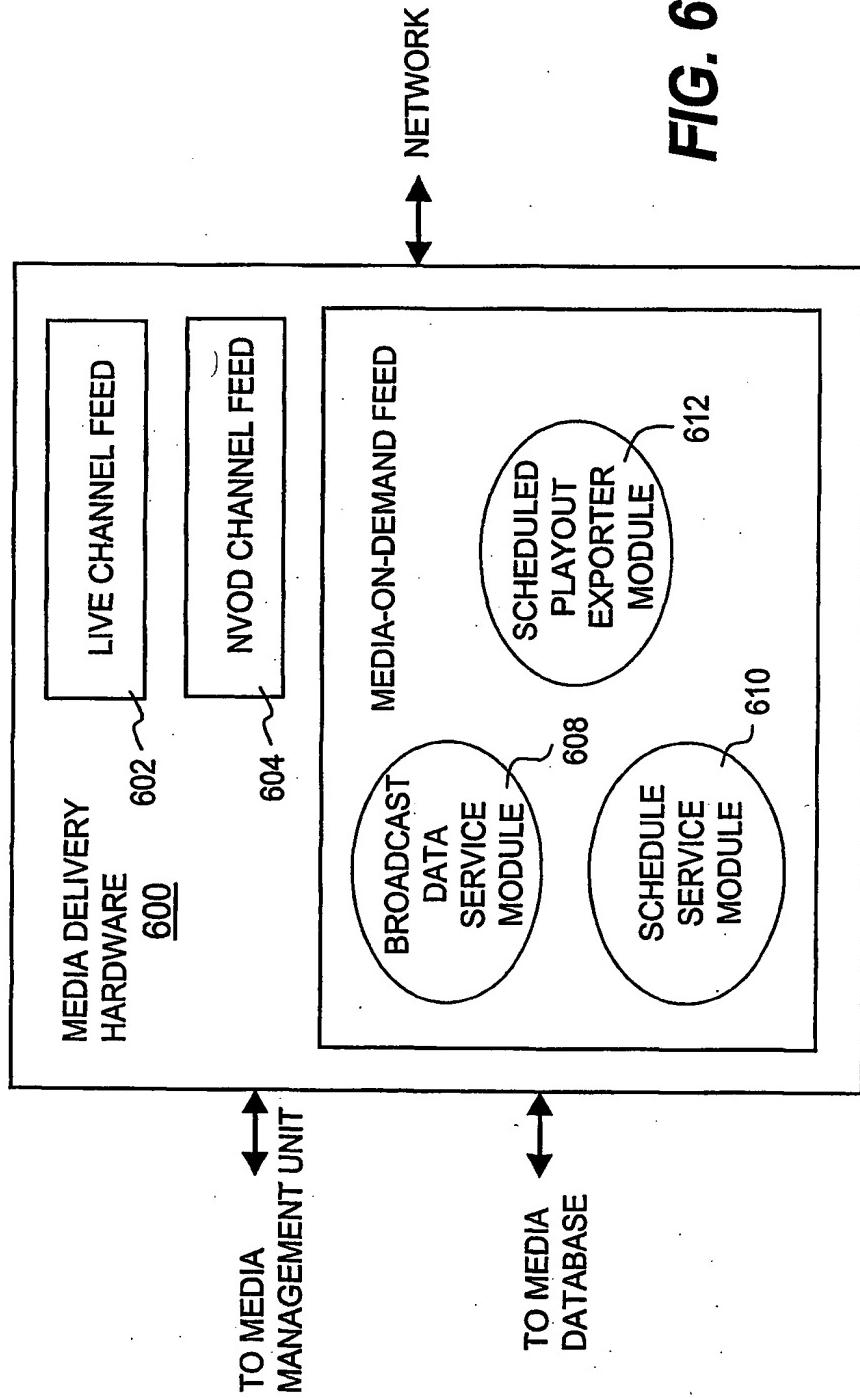
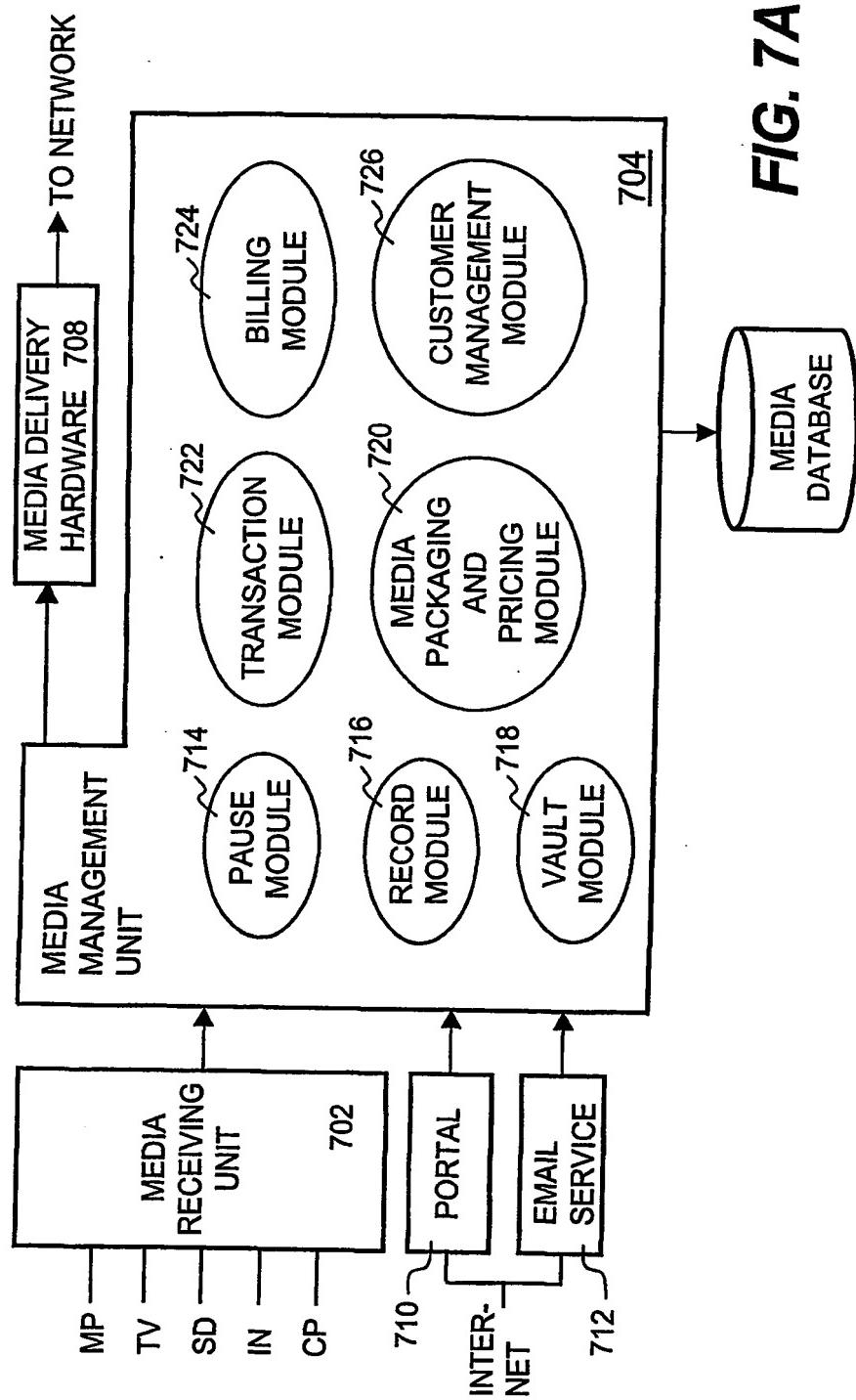
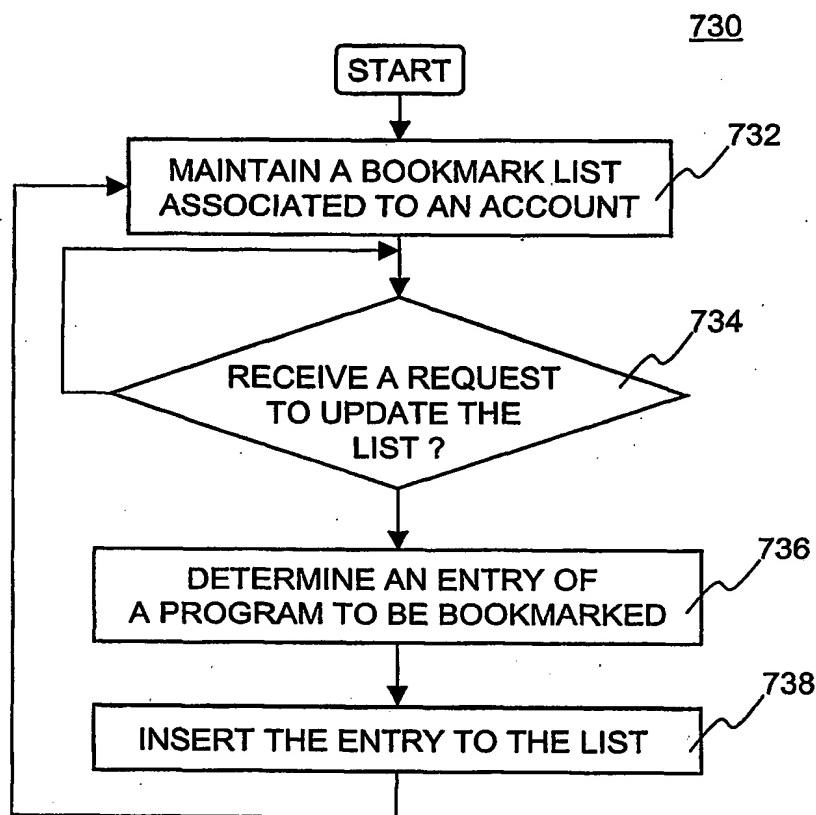
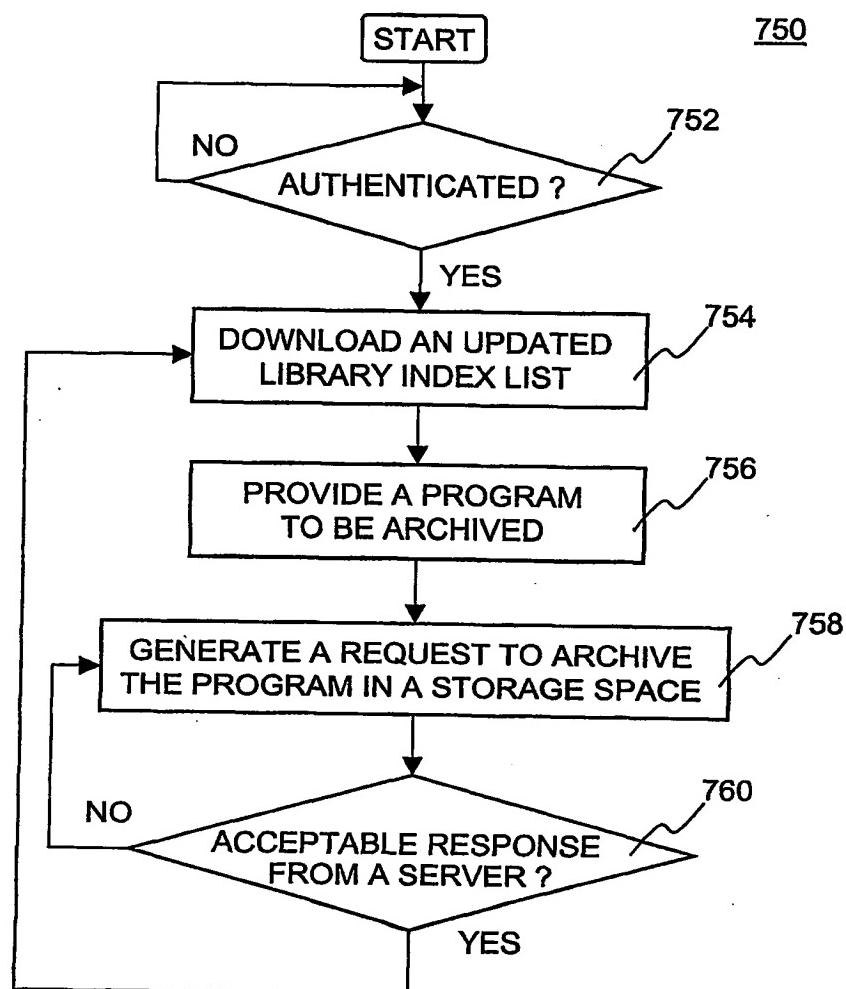
18/68**FIG. 5C**

FIG. 6

**FIG. 7A**

21/68**FIG. 7B**

22/68**FIG. 7C**

Minerva Networks		SYSTEM SETUP AND INSTALLATION	
MEDIA DEMON		BUSINESS INFORMATION	
ADMINISTRATION		Owner's Information:	<input type="text"/> Business Name PSC Italy <input type="text"/> Address 1 Attn Someone <input type="text"/> city Santa Clara <input type="text"/> Prefix PSCIT <input type="text"/> Customer ID style
DEVICE		Address 2	<input type="text"/> Service Dept Address 3 1234 ABC Blvd. <input type="text"/> State(zip) CA90999 <input type="text"/> Country U.S.A.
CUSTOMERS		Period	<input type="text"/> Phone 800-111-1111 <input type="text"/> Fax 408-123-4567 <input type="text"/> Billing date 15th <input type="text"/> Decimal style 0.00 <input type="text"/> Report Auto
LIVE ASSETS		Currency Symbol	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Language English(us)
STORED ASSETS		Count	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> Suffix
BILLING		Tax Rate	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> % <input type="text"/> SurchARGE 1.25 %
SERVICE & PRICING		Other charge:Name	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> % <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> % <input type="text"/>
System setup			<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Business Into Setup			<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
System Config			<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Admin User			<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Data Import			<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
LOG OFF			<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
SYSTEM STATISTICS			<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Customers	1834		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Video Stored	573hrs		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Live Channels	85		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s		<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
ADMIN ASSISTANCE The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details			
<input type="button" value="Save to Database"/> <input type="button" value="Un Change"/>			

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FIG. 8A

Minerva Networks		SYSTEM SETUP AND INSTALLATION		System 2	
MEDIA DEMON		SYSTEM CONFIGURATION			
ADMINISTRATION	Program Guid	Number of Channel <input type="text" value="100"/> Backward schedule Days <input type="text" value="7 days"/> Forward schedule Days <input type="text" value="7 days"/> Max Passable Channel <input type="checkbox"/>	No of Channel <input type="text" value="6"/> Program schedule block <input type="text" value="30 min"/> Max VNP Channel <input type="checkbox"/>	Max Record <input type="checkbox"/>	Max Record <input type="checkbox"/>
DEVICE	Information	display on page <input type="text" value="6"/> schedule on page <input type="text" value="6"/> Max VNP Channel <input type="checkbox"/>	Customer Aced <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/> On / Off <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="button" value="▼"/> Content List <input type="checkbox"/> New Released <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/>	Customer Set <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/> Schedule to <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/> Exceed Usage <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/>	Record <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/> Warning <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/> Rent Check <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/>
CUSTOMERS	Demon Control:	Top Box On / Off <input type="checkbox"/> Service & Price <input type="checkbox"/> Program Guide <input type="checkbox"/> Import <input type="checkbox"/> Manual <input type="button" value="▼"/>	Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/> Back <input type="checkbox"/> Auto <input type="button" value="▼"/>	822	
LIVE ASSETS					
STORED ASSETS					
BILLING					
SERVICE & PRICING					
System setup					
Business Into Setup					
System Config					
Admin User					
Data Import					
LOG OFF					
SYSTEM STATISTICS		824			
Customers	1834	VNP ID	IP Address	Port	Assigned Channel Name
O 1	225.1.1.1	2001			Assigned Channel Number
O 2	225.1.1.2	2002			Pause Record Type
O 3	225.1.1.3	2003	ABC	2	yes
O 4	225.1.1.4	2004	CNN	2	yes
O 5	225.1.1.5	2005			Live
O 6	225.1.1.6	2006			
O 7	225.1.1.7	2007			
O 8	225.1.1.8	2008			
ADMIN ASSISTANCE		826			
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information.					
Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details					
ADD NEW VNP		802			
VNP Device Configuration:	Number of VNP Boxes <input type="text" value="100"/>	Private IP Address <input type="text" value="225.1.1.1"/> <input type="button" value="▼"/>	Port <input type="text" value="2001"/> <input type="button" value="▼"/>	Edit VNP	Add VNP
				Del VNP	820

Fig. 8B

SYSTEM SETUP AND INSTALLATION							
Minerva Networks	MEDIA DEMON	ADMINISTRATION USER MANAGEMENT					
ADMINISTRATION	DEVICE	Name	Account Status	Login Device Customer	Live Asset	Access Modules Stored Asset	Billing Service System
CUSTOMERS	CUSTOMERS	Ian Locke	A Illocke	Yes Yes	No Yes	No Yes	Yes
LIVE ASSETS	LIVE ASSETS	Joe Cao	A icao	Yes Yes	No Yes	No Yes	No
STORED ASSETS	STORED ASSETS	Reed Majors	A rmajors	Yes No	Yes No	Yes Yes	Yes
BILLING	BILLING	Jean-Georges Fritsch	A igf	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	No No	No
SERVICE & PRICING	SERVICE & PRICING	Brian Zhou	A bzhou	Yes No	No Yes	Yes Yes	Yes
Business Into Setup	Business Into Setup	Chuck Morris	A cmorris	Yes Yes	No No	Yes Yes	Yes
System Config	System Config	Li Sasaki	A lsasaki	Yes Yes	Yes No	Yes Yes	Yes
Admin User	Admin User	Li Liu	A liu	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes
Data Import	Data Import	Johnny Ng	A Ing	Yes Yes	Yes Yes	No No	Yes
LOG OFF	LOG OFF	Mary Smith	A mismith	Yes No	Yes No	Yes No	Yes
Gall Batac	Gall Batac	Gall Batac	A gibatac	Yes No	Yes No	Yes Yes	No
ADD NEW ADMINISTRATION USER							
First Name: <input type="text"/> Mid Name: <input type="text"/> Last Name: <input type="text"/> Language English(us) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phone: <input type="text"/> Fax: <input type="text"/> Email: <input type="text"/> Account Status: On <input type="radio"/> Off <input checked="" type="radio"/>							
SYSTEM STATISTICS Customers 1834 Video Stored 573hrs Live Channels 85 Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s							
ADMIN ASSISTANCE <p>The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.</p>							
<input type="button" value="Add Admin User"/> <input type="button" value="Edit Admin User"/> <input type="button" value="Del Admin User"/>							

Fig. 8C

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Minerva Networks SYSTEM SETUP AND INSTALLATION						
MEDIA DEMON						
ADMINISTRATION						
DEVICE	Name	Account Status	Login Device	Customer Live Asset	Access Modules Stored Asset	Billing Service System
CUSTOMERS	Ian Locke	A	Illocke	Yes	Yes	No Yes
LIVE ASSETS	Joe Cao	A	Icao	Yes	No	Yes No
STORED ASSETS	Reed Majors	A	rmajors	Yes	Yes	No Yes
BILLING	Jean-Georges Fritsch	A	igf	Yes	Yes	No No
SERVICE & PRICING	Brian Zhou	A	bzhou	Yes	No	Yes Yes
Business Into Setup	Chuck Morris	A	cmmorris	Yes	No	No Yes
System Config	Li Sasaki	A	lsasaki	Yes	Yes	No Yes
Admin User	Li Liu	A	lliu	Yes	No	Yes No
Data Import	Johnny Ng	A	ing	Yes	Yes	No Yes
LOG OFF	Mary Smith	A	msmith	Yes	No	No Yes
	Gall Batac	A	gbatac	Yes	No	Yes Yes
						No
EDIT SELECTED ADMIN USER						
SYSTEM STATISTICS	First Name:	Mid Name:	Last Name:	Language	English(us) ▶	
Customers 1834	Phone:	Fax:	Email:	Account Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On <input type="checkbox"/> Off		
Video Stored 573hrs	Account Modules: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Device <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Live Asset <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Billing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> System n					
Live Channels 85	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stored Asset <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Service					
Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s						
ADMIN ASSISTANCE	The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.					

System 4

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▼ 860

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Fig. 8D

SYSTEM SETUP AND INSTALLATION							System 5
MEDIA DEMON			Import TV data		Get Current Data Map		Submit New Data Map ~882
DEVICE	Sel	Import Channel Name	MD Channel Name	Import Chnn No	MD Chnn No	Pauseable Recordable	IPAddress Port
CUSTOMERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WCBS CBS	CBS	12	1	<input type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2001
LIVE ASSETS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WNBC NBC	CBS	14	2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2002
STORED ASSETS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WNTW FOX	NBC	15	3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2003
BILLING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WABC ABC	FOX	16	4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2004
SERVICE & PRICING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WWOR UPN	ABC	18	5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2005
System setup	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WPIX	UPN	19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2006
Business Into Setup	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WNET PBS		20	6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2007
System Config	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	A&E	A&E	21	7	<input type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2008
Admin User	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CNN	CNN	22	8	<input type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2009
Data Import ▲	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CNN HEADLINE	CNN HEADLINE	23	9	<input type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.10 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2010
LOG OFF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISNEY EAST	DISNEY	24	10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.11 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2011
SYSTEM STATISTICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HBO EAST	HBO	25	11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.12 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2012
Customers 1834	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESPN	ESPN	26	12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.13 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2013
Video Stored 573hrs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SHOW TIME WEST	SHOW TIME	27	13	<input type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.14 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2014
Live Channels 85	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AMC	AMC	28	14	<input type="checkbox"/>	225.1.1.15 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2015
Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s		Import Device List	Datafile Path and Name: []			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN IMPORT ~884
ADMIN ASSISTANCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Import Customer List	Datafile Path and Name: []			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BEGIN IMPORT ~886
The device window is Used to add and Administer STB device Information.							
Mac Address details are entered with serial Numbers and customer details							

Fig. 8E

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Minerva Networks		RATE MANAGEMENT	
MEDIA DEMON		CHANNEL PACKAGE	
ADMINISTRATION		Name	Channel
DEVICE		New Channels	Pricing
CUSTOMERS		WCBS WNBC WNTW FOX WABC WNBC WNBC WNTW FOX WWOR Chang Chan10 Chan11 WABC WWOR Chang Chan10	\$17.95
LIVE ASSETS		Chan12 Chan13 Chan14 Chan15 Chan11 Chan12 Chan13 Chan14 Chan15 Chan16	\$17.95
STORED ASSETS		Chan14 Chan15 Chan16 Chan17 Chan15 Chan14 Chan15 Chan16	\$17.95
BILLING		Chan18 Chan19 Chan20 Chan21 Chan17 Chan18 Chan19	\$17.95
SERVICE & PRICING		ESPN1 ESPN2 Chan4 ASPORT	\$9.95
Channel Package ▶		HBO WEST, HBO EAST, HBO3	\$19.95
Service Package		SHOWTIME 1, SHOWTIME 2, SHOWTIME 3, PLAYGIRL, PLAYBOY	\$29.95
Asset Pricing		SHOWTIME 1, SHOWTIME 2, SHOWTIME 3, PLAYGIRL, PLAYBOY NEW CHANNEL	\$35.95
Other Pricing		Family A&E AMC DISNEY, NICKEL ODEON	\$29.95
System Setup		A&E, AMC, DISNEY, NICKEL ODEON	\$14.95
LOG OFF		CARTOON NET	\$12.95
SYSTEM STATISTICS			\$9.95
Customers 1834			
Video Stored 573hrs			
Live Channels 86			
Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s			
ADMIN ASSISTANCE			
The device window is Used to add and Administer STB device Information. Mac Address details are entered with serial Numbers and customer details			
902			
904			
Add Channel Package		New Channel Package Profile	Pricing
New Channel Package Name		WCBS CBS	\$17.95
[Basic]		WBNC NBC WNTW FOX WABC ABC WNBC UPN WPX WNET PBS A&E SHOW TIME WCBS CBS	June 1, 2000
Edit Channel Package			
Del Channel Package			

802

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Fig. 9A

904

Address details
are entered with serial
Numbers and customer
details

ADMIN ASSISTANCE
The device window is
Used to add and
Administer STB device
Information.

Minerva Networks		RATE MANAGEMENT		Service 2	
MEDIA DEMON		CHANNEL PACKAGE			
ADMINISTRATION		Name	Channel	New Channels	Pricing
DEVICE				New Price	Change Start Date
CUSTOMERS		©Basic	WCBS WNBTW FOX WABC WWOR Chan9 Chan10 Chan11 Chan12 Chan13 Chan14 Chan15 Chan14 Chan15 Chan16 Chan17 Chan18 Chan19 Chan20 Chan21	WCBS WNBTW FOX WABC WWOR Chan9 Chan10 Chan11 Chan12 Chan13 Chan14 Chan15 Chan16 Chan17 Chan18 Chan19 Chan20 Chan21	\$19.95 \$17.95 June 1,2000
LIVE ASSETS					
STORED ASSETS					
BILLING					
SERVICE & PRICING	►	OSports	Espn1,Espn2,Chan4,ASPORT		\$9.95 \$10.95 June 1,2000
Channel Package	►	OHBO	HBO WEST, HBO EAST, HBO3		\$19.95
Service Package		OMovie1	SHOWTIME 1, SHOWTIME 2, SHOWTIME 3, PLAYGIRL, PLAYBOY	SHOWTIME 1, SHOWTIME 2, SHOWTIME 3, PLAYGIRL, PLAYBOY NEW CHANNEL	\$29.95 \$35.95 June 1,2000
Asset Pricing		OMovie1	Family, A&E, AMC, DISNEY, NICKEL ODEON	Family, A&E, AMC, DISNEY, NICKEL ODEON	\$14.95 \$12.95 June 1,2000
Other Pricing		OPMS	CARTOON NET		\$9.95
System Setup					
LOG OFF					
<u>SYSTEM STATISTICS</u>					
Customers	1834	Current Channel	Basic	Current Price	\$19.95
Video Stored	573hrs	Package Name		New Name	Basic 1
Live Channels	85			New Price	\$17.95
Bandwidth	4.3Gbs				
<u>ADMIN ASSISTANCE</u>					
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.					

902 → **912** → **910** → **Fig. 9B**

802 → **Channel Effective Date: June 1,2000 12:00pm**

Cancel **Submit**

RATE MANAGEMENT		CHANNEL PACKAGE						Service 3			
		Package Name	Services	Pricing	Promotion Package	Promotion Start Date	Promotion End Date	New services	New Price	New Start Date	
CUSTOMERS		<input type="radio"/> Bronze	Basic I, Pause, 1-hr Record,	\$19.95	Silver	June 1, 2000	Aug 31, 2000		\$22.95	July 1, 2000	
LIVE ASSETS		<input type="radio"/> Bronze Plus	Basic I, Basic II, Pause, 1-hr Record, Internet	\$25.95							
STORED ASSETS		<input type="radio"/> Silver	Basic I, Basic II, HBO, Pause, 8-hr Record, Internet	\$29.95	Gold	June 1, 2000	Aug 31, 2000	Basic I, Basic II, HBO, Pause, 10-hr Record, Internet	\$31.95	July 1, 2000	
BILLING		<input type="radio"/> Silver Plus	Basic I, Basic II, HBO, Sports, Pause, 8-hr Record, Internet	\$39.95				Basic I, Basic II, HBO, Sports, Pause, 10-hr Record, Internet	\$41.95	July 1, 2000	
SERVICE & PRICING		<input type="radio"/> Gold	Basic I, Basic II, HBO, Sports, Pause, 10-hr Record, Internet	\$59.95					\$57.95	July 1, 2000	
Channel Package		<input type="radio"/> Introduction	Basic I, HBO Movie, Pause, 1-hr Record, Internet	\$25.95	Silver	June 1, 2000	Aug 31, 2000				
Service Package											
Asset Pricing											
Other Pricing											
System Setup											
LOG OFF											
ADD NEW SERVICE PACKAGE											
SYSTEM STATISTICS		<input type="radio"/> New Channel Package Name	Channel Package			Pricing					
Customers 1834		<input type="radio"/> Record Space	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basic I	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic II	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports	<input type="checkbox"/> Start Date	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion Package:	<input type="checkbox"/> No Next Package			
Video Stored 573hrs		<input type="radio"/> Pause	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-hr	<input type="checkbox"/> HBO	<input type="checkbox"/> Movie 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion Start Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> Internet Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Movie 2			
Live Channels 85		<input type="radio"/> Internet Access	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Movie 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Plus	<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion Date:					
Bandwidth 4.3Gbps											
ADMINISTRATION											
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.											

Fig. 9C

920

802

<input type="checkbox"/> Add Channel Package	<input type="checkbox"/> Edit Channel Package	<input type="checkbox"/> Del Channel Package
--	---	--

924

<input type="checkbox"/> Record Space	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-hr	<input type="checkbox"/> Pause	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet Access
---------------------------------------	--	--------------------------------	---

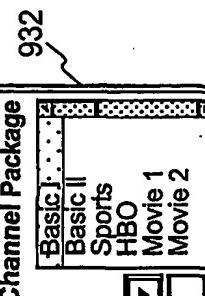
922

Minerva Networks		RATE MANAGEMENT		Service 4	
MEDIA DEMON		SERVICE PACKAGE			
ADMINISTRATION		Package Name	Services	Pricing Package	Promotion Start Date
DEVICE				Promotion End Date	New services
CUSTOMERS		(@)Bronze	Basic I, Pause,1-hr Record,	\$19.95	Silver
LIVE ASSETS		(@)Bronze Plus	Basic II, Pause,1-hr Record, Internet	\$25.95	
STORED ASSETS		(@)Silver	Basic I,Basic II,HBO, Pause,8-hr Record, Internet	\$29.95	Gold
BILLING		(@)Silver Plus	Basic I,Basic II,HBO, Sports,Pause,8-hr Record,Internet	\$39.95	
SERVICE & PRICING		(@)Gold	Basic I,Basic II,HBO, Sports,Pause,10-hr Record,Internet	\$59.95	
Channel Package		(@)Introductory	Basic I,HBO,Movie, Pause,1-hr Record, Internet	\$25.95	Silver
Service Package					June 1, 2000
Asset Pricing					Aug 31, 2000
Other Pricing					
System Setup					
LOG OFF					
SYSTEM STATISTICS		EDIT SELECTED SERVICE PACKAGE			
		Current Service Package Name	Bronze Current Price	\$19.95	New Name <input type="text"/> Bronze <input type="checkbox"/> New Price <input type="text"/> \$22.95
Customer		1834			
Video Stored		573hrs			
Live Channels		85			
Bandwidth		4.3Gb/s			
ADMIN ASSISTANCE		<p>The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.</p>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Basic I <input type="checkbox"/> Basic II <input type="checkbox"/> HBO <input type="checkbox"/> Movie 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Movie 2					
<input type="checkbox"/> Record Space <input type="checkbox"/> Internet Access <input type="checkbox"/> Pause					
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion Package: <input type="text"/> Silver <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion Start Date: <input type="text"/> June 1, 2000 <input type="checkbox"/> Promotion End Date: <input type="text"/> Aug 1, 2000					
<input type="checkbox"/> Channel Effective Date: <input type="text"/> June 1,2000 12:00pm					
<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>					

Fig. 9D

930

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932

RATE MANAGEMENT		Service 5	
VOD SET PRICING			
VOD Set Name	PricingLevd	Rental Time	Change Time
1st Syn. ...	A	\$3.95 24 Hours	1 Weeks ▶
Arts	B	\$2.95 5 Days	2 Weeks ▶
Cartoon	C	\$1.95 5 Days	3 Weeks ▶
Cinema	D	\$0.95 2 Weeks	4 Weeks ▶
Crafts	E	Weeks ▶	Weeks ▶
Add New			
Submit	Del VOD Set		
NVOD SET PRICING			
NVOD Set Name	PricingLevd	Rental Time	Change Time
Movie ...	A	\$2.95 24 Hours	1 Weeks ▶
Cartoon	B	\$1.95 5 Days	2 Weeks ▶
Sports	C	Days ▶	Weeks ▶
Special	D	Days ▶	Weeks ▶
Add New	E	Weeks ▶	Weeks ▶
Submit	Del NVOD Set		
SYSTEM STATISTICS			
Customers	1834	Hours ▶	
Video Stored	573hrs	Days ▶	
Live Channels	85	Weeks ▶	
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s		
ADMIN ASSISTANCE			
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information.			
Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.			

Fig. 9E

802

940

942

944

33/68

STORED ASSETS LIST									
<input type="checkbox"/> Minerva Networks MEDIA DEMON  <input type="checkbox"/> ADMINISTRATION <input type="checkbox"/> DEVICE <input type="checkbox"/> CUSTOMERS <input type="checkbox"/> LIVE ASSETS STORED ASSETS ► <input type="checkbox"/> BILLING <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE & PRICING <input type="checkbox"/> System Setup <input type="checkbox"/> LOG OFF									
ASSETS PROFILE <input type="checkbox"/> Browser Category <input type="button" value="1 st Syn ▶"/> Sub Category <input type="button" value="Action ▶"/>									
<input type="checkbox"/> MPAA Rating: <input type="button" value="PG ▶"/> Type: <input type="button" value="FTP ▶"/> <input type="button" value="Go"/>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Type Title <input type="checkbox"/> Grist <input type="checkbox"/> VOD Type <input type="checkbox"/> NVOD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FTP Copycat <input type="checkbox"/> Movie <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OCST Soldier <input type="checkbox"/> Movie <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OCST Cruel Interactions <input type="checkbox"/> Movie <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Boxing <input type="checkbox"/> Sport <input type="checkbox"/> Sports(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Artists' Specials <input type="checkbox"/> Rid Show <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Babar <input type="checkbox"/> Cartoon <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Beach First Look <input type="checkbox"/> Special <input type="checkbox"/> Sports(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Sopranos <input type="checkbox"/> Series <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> OCST Cruel Insertions <input type="checkbox"/> Movie <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Boring <input type="checkbox"/> Sport <input type="checkbox"/> Sports(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Artists Specials <input type="checkbox"/> Movie <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Babar <input type="checkbox"/> Cartoon <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Beach First Look <input type="checkbox"/> Special <input type="checkbox"/> Sports(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Sopranos <input type="checkbox"/> Series <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> OCST Cruel Interactions <input type="checkbox"/> Movie <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Boring <input type="checkbox"/> Sport <input type="checkbox"/> Sports(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Beach First Look <input type="checkbox"/> Special <input type="checkbox"/> Sports(B) <input type="checkbox"/> OREC Sopranos <input type="checkbox"/> Series <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A)									
ASSETS PROFILE <input type="checkbox"/> Title <input type="checkbox"/> Episode <input type="checkbox"/> Category <input type="checkbox"/> Movie <input type="checkbox"/> SubCategory <input type="checkbox"/> Suspense <input type="checkbox"/> Rate <input type="checkbox"/> R <input type="checkbox"/> Encode Type <input type="checkbox"/> MPEG2									
ASSETS PROFILE <input type="checkbox"/> Asset Added By <input type="checkbox"/> ETP <input type="checkbox"/> Asset Added Date Time <input type="checkbox"/> 02/13/2000 12:30A <input type="checkbox"/> VOD Set <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> NVOD Set <input type="checkbox"/> Movie(A) <input type="checkbox"/> NVOD Channel <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Current Trailer <input type="checkbox"/> Copycat ¹ <input type="checkbox"/> Trailer List <input type="checkbox"/> Action <input type="checkbox"/> Location <input type="checkbox"/> D:\media\Demond\assets\Copycat <input type="checkbox"/> Description <input type="checkbox"/> A criminal psychologist and Two...									
SYSTEM STATISTICS <input type="checkbox"/> Customers <input type="checkbox"/> 1834 <input type="checkbox"/> Video Stored <input type="checkbox"/> 573hrs <input type="checkbox"/> Live Channels <input type="checkbox"/> 85 <input type="checkbox"/> Bandwidth <input type="checkbox"/> 4.3Gb/s									
ADMIN ASSISTANCE <p>The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.</p>									
<input type="checkbox"/> Next Page >> Number of remaining assets in search:10 <input type="checkbox"/> Delete Asset <input type="checkbox"/> Edit Asset									
<input type="checkbox"/> Add Assets <input type="checkbox"/> Add Assets from Newly Received Assets List <input type="checkbox"/> Add Assets by Entering data <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule to Record a Program from Program Guide									
<input type="checkbox"/> Start Time <input type="button" value="12:00A ▶"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Channel <input type="button" value="ABC(1) ▶"/>									
1006 1002 1000									
802									

Fig. 10A

Minerva Networks		STORED ASSETS LIST		ADD ASSETS FROM ASSET LIST		Stored Assets 2	
MEDIA DEMON		Browser Category	1 st Syn ▼	Sub Category	Action ▼		
ADMINISTRATION		MPAA Rating:	PG ▶	Type:	FTP ▶	Asset List	
DEVICE		Type Title	Grist	VOD Type	NVOD	Trailer List	
CUSTOMERS		FTP Copy/cat		(Rate)	Type(Rate)	Title	
LIVE ASSETS		OCST Soldier	Movie	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	Episode Title	
STORED ASSETS ▶		OCST Cruel Interactions	Movie	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	Category	
BILLING		OREC Boxing	Sport	Sports(B)		Sub Category	
SERVICE & PRICING		OREC Artists' Specials	Rid Show	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	Encode Type	1012
System Setup		OREC Babar	Cartoon	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	Added By	
LOG OFF		OREC Beach First Look	Special	Sports(B)		Asset Added Date Time	
		OREC Sopranos	Series	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	VOD Set	
		OCST Cruel Insertions	Move	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	Movie ▶ A ▶	
		OREC Boring	Sport	Sports(B)		Movie ▶ A ▶	
		OREC Artists Specials	Move	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	NVOD Set	
		OREC Babar	Cartoon	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	Description	
		OREC Beach First Look	Special	Sports(B)		ADD	DONE
SYSTEM STATISTICS							
Customers	1834						
Video Stored	573hrs						
Live Channels	85						
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s						
ADMIN ASSISTANCE							
The device window is Used to add and Administer STB device Information. Mac Address details are entered with serial Numbers and customer details							
Next Page >> Number of remaining assets in search:10							

Fig. 10B

1010

1002

802

STORED ASSETS LIST									
Browser Category				1 st	Syn	▼	Sub Category	Action	▼
MPAA Rating:	PG	▼	Type:	FTP	▼	Go			
Type	Title	Grist	VOD Type	NVOD					
①	FTP Copycat		Movie Movie(A)	Movie(A)	12:00A	□	ABC News		
②	OCST Soldier		Movie Movie(A)	Movie(A)	12:30A	□	Room		
③	OCST Cruel Interactions		Movie Movie(A)	Movie(A)	01:00A	□			
④	OREC Boxing		Sport	Sports(B)	01:30A	□			
⑤	OREC Artists' Specials	Rid Show	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	02:00A	□	Good		
⑥	OREC Babar	Cartoon	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	02:30A	□	Morning		
⑦	OREC Beach First Look	Special	Sports(B)		03:00A	□	America		
⑧	OREC Sopranos	Series	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	03:30A	□			
⑨	CST Cruel Insertions	Move	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	04:00A	□	Good		
⑩	OREC Boring	Sport	Sports(B)		04:30A	□	Morning		
⑪	OREC Artists' Specials	Move	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	04:00A	□			
⑫	OREC Babar	Cartoon	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	04:30A	□	News Hour		
⑬	OREC Beach First Look	Special	Sports(B)		ABC(1) ▼	▼			
⑭	OREC Sopranos	Series	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	Start Time	12:00A ▼			
⑮	CST Cruel Interactions	Movie	Movie(A)	Movie(A)	End Time	11:30P ▼			
⑯	OREC Boring	Sport	Sports(B)		Refresh				
⑰	OREC Beach First Look	Special	Sports(B)						
⑱	OREC Sopranos	Series	Movie(A)	Movie(A)					
SYSTEM STATISTICS									
Customers	1834								
Video Stored	573hrs								
Live Channels	85								
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s								
ADMIN INSTANCE									
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information.									
Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details									
Next Page >> Number of remaining assets in search: 1002									
Description									
ADD									
DONE									

Fig. 10C

1002

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1022

STORED ASSETS LIST									
ADD ASSETS BY ENTERING DATA									
Minerva Networks	MEDIA DEMON	Browser Category	1 st Syn ▶	Sub Category	Action ▼				
ADMINISTRATION	MPAA Rating:	PG ▶	Type:	FTP ▶	Go	VOD Type	NVOD Type		
DEVICE	Type	Title	Grist (Rate)	Movie(A)		Episode Title	Category	1 st Syn.	▼
CUSTOMERS	OCST Copycat	Movie Movie(A)	Movie(A)			Category	Action ▶		
LIVE ASSETS	OCST Soldier	Movie Movie(A)	Movie(A)			Sub Category	Action ▶		
STORED ASSETS ▶	OCST Cruel Interactions	Movie Movie(A)	Movie(A)			Rate G ▶			
BILLING	OREC Boxing	Sport Sports(B)				Encode Type	MPEG1 ▶		
SERVICE & PRICING	OREC Artists' Specials	Rid Show Movie(A)	Movie(A)			Asset Added By	SCH		
System Setup	OREC Babar	Cartoon Movie(A)	Movie(A)			Asset Added Date Time	Mm: dd yy	00	12:00A ▶
LOG OFF	OREC Beach First Look	Special Sports(B)				VOD Set	Movie ▶ A ▶		
	OREC Sopranos	Series Movie(A)	Movie(A)			NVOD Set	Movie ▶ A ▶		
	OCST Cruel Insertions	Move Movie(A)	Movie(A)			Physical Location			
	OREC Boring	Sport Sports(B)				Description			
	OREC Artists Specials	Move Movie(A)	Movie(A)						
	OREC Babar	Cartoon Movie(A)	Movie(A)						
	OREC Beach First Look	Special Sports(B)							
	OREC Sopranos	Series Movie(A)	Movie(A)						
	OCST Cruel Interactions	Movie Movie(A)	Movie(A)						
	OREC Boring	Sport Sports(B)							
	OCST Beach First Look	Special Sports(B)							
	OREC Sopranos	Series Movie(A)	Movie(A)						
	OCST Assist	Movie Movie(A)	Movie(A)						
	The device window is								
	Used to add and								
	Administer STB device								
	Information.								
	Mac Address details								
	Next Page >>	Number of remaining assets in search:10							
	CANCEL	ADD							DONE

1002

802

Fig. 10D

MINERVA NETWORKS		STORED ASSETS LIST		MODIFY ASSET		STORED ASSETS 5	
MEDIA DEMON		Browser Category [1 st Syn] ▶ Sub Category Action ▶					
ADMINISTRATION		MPAA Rating: PG ▶	Type: FTP ▶ Go	Title Copycat	Episode Title		
DEVICE		Type Title	Grist (Rate) Type(Rate)	Category Movie.	Category Movie.		
CUSTOMERS		©FTP Copycat	Movie Movie(A) Movie(A)	Sub Category Suspense ▶	Sub Category Suspense ▶		
LIVE ASSETS		OCST Soldier	Movie Movie(A) Movie(A)	Rate R ▶	Rate R ▶	1042	
STORED ASSETS ▶		OCST Cruel Interactions	Movie Movie(A) Movie(A)	Encode Type MPEG2 ▶	Encode Type MPEG2 ▶		
BILLING		O REC Boxing	Sport Sports(B)	Asset Added By FTP	Asset Added By FTP		
SERVICE & PRICING		O REC Artists' Specials	Rid Show Movie(A) Movie(A)	Asset Added Date Time Mm: 02 dd 13 yy 00	Asset Added Date Time Mm: 02 dd 13 yy 00	▶	
System Setup		O REC Babar	Cartoon Movie(A) Movie(A)	VOD Set Movie ▶ A ▶	VOD Set Movie ▶ A ▶	▶	
LOG OFF		O REC Beach First Look	Special Sports(B)	NVOD Set Movie ▶ A ▶	NVOD Set Movie ▶ A ▶	NVOD Channel [3]	
		O REC Sopranos	Series Movie(A) Movie(A)	Trailer List Copycat1 ▶	Trailer List Copycat1 ▶	Location D:\media\Demon\assets\Copycat	
		O CST Cruel Insertions	Move Movie(A) Movie(A)	Description A criminal psychologist and Two...	Description A criminal psychologist and Two...		
		O REC Boring	Sport Sports(B)	CANCEL	UNCHANGE	DONE	
		O REC Artists Specials	Move Movie(A) Movie(A)				
		O REC Babar	Cartoon Movie(A) Movie(A)				
		O REC Beach First Look	Special Sports(B)				
		O REC Sopranos	Series Movie(A) Movie(A)				
		O CST Cruel Interactions	Movie Movie(A) Movie(A)				
		O REC Boring	Sport Sports(B)				
		O REC Beach First Look	Special Sports(B)				
		O REC Sopranos	Series Movie(A) Movie(A)				
		SYSTEM STATISTICS					
		Customers 1834					
		Video Stored 573hrs					
		Live Channels 85					
		Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s					
		ADMIN ASSISTANCE					
		The device window is Used to add and Administer STB device information.					
		Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details					
		Next Page >>	Number of remaining assets in search: 10				

Fig. 10E

1040

1002

802

PROGRAM GUIDE ON DATE [May 11 12:38:27 CDT 2000] ▶ GO				Live Asset 1	
	TIME	CHANNEL	DESCRIPTION	ON VOD1 (Channel 4)	ON VOD2 (Channel 5)
	12:00A	○ NVOD2 (Channel 5) IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2005	○ CNN (Channel 2) IPAdd: 225.1.1.2:2002	○ CBS (Channel 3) P/R IPAdd: 225.1.1.3:2003	○ NVOD3 (Channel 6) IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2006
	12:30A	ABC News Room	Morning News Local News (CST)	Morning News	IPAdd: 225.1.1.5:2005
LIVE ASSETS	01:00A	ABC	Morning News Local News (CST)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection
STORED ASSETS	01:30A	News Room	Movie (CST)		New Movie A
BILLING	02:00A	Good Morning America (CST)	World News Gone with Wind (REC)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection
SERVICE & PRICING	02:30A	Good Morning Stock Watch		Platoon	New Movie A
System Setup	03:00A	Good Morning Stock Watch		Platoon	Alien Resurrection
LOG OFF	03:00A	Good Morning Stock Watch		Platoon	New Movie A
	04:00A	Good Morning Stock Watch		Platoon	Alien Resurrection
	04:30A	Good Morning Stock Watch		Platoon	New Movie A
	05:00A	News Hour Market Review (SCH)	Weekly Review	Platoon	Alien Resurrection
	06:00A	Local News	Movie	Platoon	New Movie A
SYSTEM STATISTICS	06:30A	Local News			
Customers	1834				
Video Stored	573hrs				
Live Channels	85				
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s				

Next Page >> Number of remaining channels in this view: 11

CHANNEL	
Add Channel	○ Live Channel
Del Channel	○ NVOD Channel
Edit Channel	

PROGRAM	
Title: ABC News Room	Description:
Episode:	Add Program
Category: News	ABC Daily news...
Sub-Category:	Del Program
Rating: NR	Edit Program
Affiliation: ABC	Rec Program

ADMIN ASSISTANCE
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.

Fig. 11A

1100 1106 1102

1104

802

Minerva Networks		PROGRAM GUIDEON DATE [May 1 12:38:27 CDT 2000] <input type="button" value="GO"/>						Live Asset 2	
MEDIA DEMON									
ADMINISTRATION		© NVOD2 (Channel 5) O CNN (Channel 2) O CBS (Channel 3) O NVOD1 (Channel 4) O NVOD2 (Channel 5) O NVOD3 (Channel 6)						1102	
DEVICE		TIME	IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2005	IPAdd: 225.1.1.2:2002	IPAdd: 225.1.1.3:2003	IPAdd: 225.1.1.4:2004	IPAdd: 225.1.1.5:2005	IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2006	
CUSTOMERS		12:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Morning News	Morning News	Alien Resurrection	New Movie A	Alien Resurrection	New Movie A	
LIVE ASSETS ▶		12:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ABC News Room	Movie (CST)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection	Platoon	Alien Resurrection	
STORED ASSETS		01:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local News (CST)	World News	Gone with Wind (REC)	Platoon	Platoon	Alien Resurrection	
BILLING		01:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good Morning America (CST)	World News	Stock Watch	Platoon	Platoon	Alien Resurrection	
SERVICE & PRICING		02:00A	02:30A	03:00A	03:00A	04:00A	04:30A	05:00A	
System Setup						Good Morning	Market Review (SCH)	News Hour	
LOG OFF						Stock Watch	Market Review (SCH)	Local News	
SYSTEM STATISTICS		05:00A	06:00A	06:30A	07:00A	07:00A	07:00A	07:00A	
Customers	1834								
Video Stored	573hrs								
Live Channels	85								
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s								
ADMIN ASSISTANCE		Next Page >> Number of remaining channels in this view:11						ADD LIVE CHANNEL	
The device window is Used to add and Administer STB device Information.		Select a Channel Number	7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Channel Name	Device Address	225.1.1.7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Port 2007 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	On <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pause <input type="checkbox"/> Record <input type="checkbox"/>	
Mac Address details are entered with serial Numbers and customer details		Import Program Guide from MD Channel 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> between May 11, 2000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> and May 25, 2000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>							
		<input type="button" value="Add Channel"/> <input type="button" value="Import Prog"/> <input type="button" value="Done"/>							

Fig. 11B

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Minerva Networks		PROGRAM GUIDE		ON	OFF	GO	Live Asset 3	
MEDIA DEMON		CNN (Channel 5)	O CBS (Channel 3)	ONVOD1 (Channel 4)	ONVOD2 (Channel 5)	ONVOD3 (Channel 6)		
ADMINISTRATION		IP Add: 225.1.1.6:2005	IP Add: 225.1.1.3:2003	IP Add: 225.1.1.4:2004	IP Add: 225.1.1.5:2005	IP Add: 225.1.1.6:2006		
DEVICE		12:00A	Morning News	Morning News	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
CUSTOMERS		12:30A	ABC News Room	Movie (CST)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
LIVE ASSETS	▲	01:00A	Local News (CST)	World News	Gone with Wind (REC)	Alien Resurrection		
STORED ASSETS		01:30A	Good Morning America (CST)	Stock Watch	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
BILLING		02:00A	02:30A	Market Review (SCH)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
SERVICE & PRICING		03:00A	03:00A	Weekly Review	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
System Setup		04:00A	Good Morning	Movie	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
LOG OFF		04:30A	News Hour	Movie	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
SYSTEM STATISTICS		05:00A	05:00A	Weekly Review	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
Customers 1834		06:00A	Local News	Movie	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
Video Stored 573hrs		06:30A		Movie	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
Live Channels 85		07:00A		Movie	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s		07:30A		Movie	Platoon	Alien Resurrection		
Next Page >> Number of remaining channels in this view: 11								
ADD NCOD CHANNEL								
Select a Channel <input type="text" value="7"/> Device <input type="text"/> Channel Name <input type="text"/> Address <input type="checkbox"/> Port <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2007 <input type="checkbox"/> On <input type="checkbox"/> Pause <input type="checkbox"/> Record								
Start Date Time <input type="text" value="May 11, 2000"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat Days <input type="text" value="5 days"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Repeat Times <input type="text" value="1 times"/> <input type="checkbox"/>								
NVOD CONTENT <input type="text" value="Platoon (90 mins)"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Add Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Done								

Fig. 11C

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Minerva Networks		PROGRAM GUIDE ON DATE [May 1 12:38:27 CDT 2000] ▶ GO		Live Asset 4	
MEDIA DEMON	<input type="radio"/> NVOD2 (Channel 5)	<input type="radio"/> CNN (Channel 2)	<input type="radio"/> CBS (Channel 3) P/R	<input type="radio"/> NVOD1 (Channel 4)	<input type="radio"/> NVOD2 (Channel 5)
ADMINISTRATION	TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2005	TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.2:2002	TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.3:2003	TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.4:2004	TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.5:2005
DEVICE	12:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ABC	Morning News	Morning News	NVOD3 (Channel 6) IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2006
CUSTOMERS	12:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	News Room	Local News (CST)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection
LIVE ASSETS	01:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good Morning America (CST)	World News	New Movie A
STORED ASSETS	02:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	02:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	03:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gone with Wind (REC)	Alien Resurrection
BILLING	03:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	04:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	04:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Platoon	New Movie A
SERVICE & PRICING	04:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	05:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	05:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Platoon	Alien Resurrection
System Setup	05:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	06:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	06:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Platoon	New Movie A
LOG OFF	06:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	07:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	07:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Platoon	Alien Resurrection
SYSTEM STATISTICS					New Movie A
Customers	1834				
Video Stored	573hrs				
Live Channels	85				
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s				
Next Page >> Number of remaining channels in this view:11					
EDIT CHANNEL					
Current Channel Number <input type="text" value="5"/>		Change to a new Channel Number <input type="text" value="Unchange"/>		Current Channel Name <input type="text" value="NVOD2"/>	
Current Device IP Address <input type="text" value="225.1.1.5"/>		Change to a new IP Address <input type="text" value="Unchange"/>		Current Port Number <input type="text" value="2005"/>	
Channel On <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				Change to a new Port Number <input type="text" value="Unchange"/>	
				<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<input type="button" value="Cancel"/>

ADMIN ASSISTANCE
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.

Fig. 11D

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Minerva Networks		PROGRAM GUIDE ON DATE [May 1 12:38:27 CDT 2000]		GO	Live Asset 5																										
MEDIA DEMON		<input checked="" type="radio"/> NVOD2 (Channel 5)	<input type="radio"/> CNN (Channel 2)	O CBS (Channel 3) P/R	O NVOD1 (Channel 4)	O NVOD3 (Channel 6)																									
ADMINISTRATION		TIME	TIME	IPAddr: 225.1.1.6:2005	IPAddr: 225.1.1.3:2003	IPAddr: 225.1.1.4:2004																									
DEVICE		12:00A	12:30A	ABC	Morning News	IPAddr: 225.1.1.5:2005																									
CUSTOMERS		01:00A	01:30A	News Room	Movie (CST)	IPAddr: 225.1.1.6:2006																									
LIVE ASSETS	▲	02:00A	02:30A	Good Morning America (CST)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection																									
STORED ASSETS		03:00A	03:00A	World News	Gone with Wind (REC)	New Movie A																									
BILLING		04:00A	04:30A	Stock Watch	Platoon	Alien Resurrection																									
SERVICE & PRICING		05:00A	05:00A	Market Review (SCH)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection																									
System Setup		06:00A	06:30A	Local News	Movie	New Movie A																									
LOG OFF		07:00A	07:00A	Weekly Review	Platoon	Alien Resurrection																									
		SYSTEM STATISTICS																													
		Customers 1834	Video Stored 573hrs																												
		Live Channels 85	Bandwidth 4.3Gbs																												
		Next Page >>		Number of remaining channels in this view: 11																											
EDIT CHANNEL																															
ADMIN ASSISTANCE		<p>The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pausable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recordable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Channel On <input type="checkbox"/> Channel Off <input type="checkbox"/> Change Channel <input type="checkbox"/> Change IP Address <input type="checkbox"/> Change Port Number <input type="checkbox"/> Change to a new Port Number <input type="checkbox"/> Unchange Port Number <input type="checkbox"/> Change to a new IP Address <input type="checkbox"/> Unchange IP Address</p>																													
		<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Current Channel Number</td> <td>3</td> <td>Change to a new Channel Number</td> <td><input type="button" value="Unchange"/></td> <td>Current Channel Name</td> <td>CBS</td> <td>Channel Name</td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Current Device IP Address</td> <td>225.1.1.3</td> <td>Change to a new IP Address</td> <td><input type="button" value="Unchange"/></td> <td>Current Port</td> <td>2003</td> <td>Change to a new Port Number</td> <td><input type="button" value="Unchange"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"></td> <td colspan="3"></td> <td><input type="button" value="Submit"/></td> <td><input type="button" value="Cancel"/></td> </tr> </table>					Current Channel Number	3	Change to a new Channel Number	<input type="button" value="Unchange"/>	Current Channel Name	CBS	Channel Name	<input type="text"/>	Current Device IP Address	225.1.1.3	Change to a new IP Address	<input type="button" value="Unchange"/>	Current Port	2003	Change to a new Port Number	<input type="button" value="Unchange"/>								<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<input type="button" value="Cancel"/>
Current Channel Number	3	Change to a new Channel Number	<input type="button" value="Unchange"/>	Current Channel Name	CBS	Channel Name	<input type="text"/>																								
Current Device IP Address	225.1.1.3	Change to a new IP Address	<input type="button" value="Unchange"/>	Current Port	2003	Change to a new Port Number	<input type="button" value="Unchange"/>																								
							<input type="button" value="Submit"/>	<input type="button" value="Cancel"/>																							

Fig. 11E

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PROGRAM GUIDEON DATE [May 1 12:38:27 CDT 2000] <input type="button" value="GO"/>						Live Asset 6	
TIME	<input type="checkbox"/> NVOD2 (Channel 5) IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2005	<input type="checkbox"/> CNN (Channel 2) IPAdd: 225.1.1.2:2002	<input type="checkbox"/> CBS (Channel 3) P/R IPAdd: 225.1.1.3:2003	<input type="checkbox"/> NVOD1 (Channel 4) IPAdd: 225.1.1.4:2004	<input type="checkbox"/> NVOD2 (Channel 5) IPAdd: 225.1.1.5:2005	<input type="checkbox"/> NVOD3 (Channel 6) IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2006	
LIVE ASSETS	12:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ABC	Morning News	Morning News	Alien Resurrection	New Movie A
STORED ASSETS	01:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	News Room	Local News (CST)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection	New Movie A
BILLING	02:00A	02:30A	Good Morning America (CST)	World News	Gone with Wind (REC)	Platoon	Alien Resurrection
SERVICE & PRICING	03:00A	03:00A				Platoon	Alien Resurrection
System Setup	04:00A	04:30A	Good Morning Stock Watch	Market Review (SCH)	Movie	Platoon	New Movie A
LOG OFF	05:00A	05:00A	News Hour	Weekly Review	Movie	Platoon	Alien Resurrection
SYSTEM STATISTICS	06:00A	06:30A	Local News				
Customers	1834	07:00A					
Video Stored	573hrs	07:00A					
Live Channels	85						
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s						
ADMIN ASSISTANCE	The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.						
<input type="button" value="Next Page >>"/> Number of remaining channels in this view:11							
ADD PROGRAM TO SELECTED LIVE CHANNEL							
Title: <input type="text"/>		Episode Title: <input type="text"/>		Description: <input type="text"/>			
Category: <input type="checkbox"/> 1st Syn. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Sub-Category: <input type="text"/>		Action: <input type="button" value="▼"/>			
Rate: <input type="checkbox"/> G <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Affiliation: <input type="checkbox"/> WCBS CBS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>							

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Fig. 11F

Minerva Networks		PROGRAM GUIDE ON DATE [May 1 12:38:27 CDT 2000] <input type="button" value="GO"/>		Live Asset 7	
MEDIA DEMON		<input checked="" type="radio"/> NVOD2 (Channel 5)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> CNN (Channel 2)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> CBS (Channel 3) P/R	<input checked="" type="radio"/> NVOD1 (Channel 4)
ADMINISTRATION		TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.6:2005	TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.2:2002	TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.3:2003	TIME IPAdd: 225.1.1.4:2004
DEVICE		12:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	12:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Morning News <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Morning News <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CUSTOMERS		01:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	01:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Local News <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (CST)	Platoon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LIVE ASSETS		02:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	02:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good Morning America <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (CST)	Platoon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
STORED ASSETS		03:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	03:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	World News <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gone with Wind (REC)	Alien Resurrection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BILLING		04:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	04:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stock Watch <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alien Resurrection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERVICE & PRICING		05:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	05:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Market Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (SCH)	Platoon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
System Setup		06:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	06:30A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Movie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alien Resurrection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
LOG OFF		07:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	07:00A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Weekly Review <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Platoon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Next Page  Number of remaining channels in this view: 11			
SYSTEM STATISTICS					
Customers 1834 Video Stored 573hrs Live Channels 85 Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s					

ADMIN ASSISTANCE
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.

EDIT SELECTED PROGRAM

Title: Episode Title: Description:
 Category Movie Sub-Category History
 Rate: R Affiliation: WCBS CBS

Fig. 11G

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Cancel

CUSTOMER LIST		Customer 1	
<input type="text" value="Find a Customer by Customer ID#"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>		<input type="button" value="Customer Profile Detail"/>	
<input type="button" value="Search by 1"/>		<input type="button" value="General Information"/>	
		<p>Name: Li Liu Customer Since 07/11/1999 Address: 1234 ABC Street, San Jose, CA 9999 Phone: 408-904-1286(work) Email: liu@minervanetworks.com</p>	
		<p>Customer ID: PSCIT540301 CreateDate: 07/11/1999 LastModify: 02/15/2000 CreditRate: A PaymentMethod: Mail CreditCardType: ExpirationDate:</p>	
		<p>Account Status: A EffectiveDate: 08/01/1999 ExpireDate: OverrideCreditRate: CardNo: CardHolderName:</p>	
		<p>Account Majors: 408-999-8888 CreateDate: 07/11/1999 LastModify: 02/15/2000 CreditRate: A PaymentMethod: Mail CreditCardType: ExpirationDate:</p>	
		<p>Service Information: STB Device: Login: asda Subscribing Service: Channel Package Basic I, Sports Pause Duration: 20 mhs Total Monthly Charge: \$29.95</p>	
		<p>Service Information: STB Device: Login: asda Subscribing Service: Channel Package Basic I, Sports Pause Duration: 20 mhs Total Monthly Charge: \$29.95</p>	
		<p>Number of remaining channels in this view: 10 1202</p>	
		<p>Add Customer <input type="button" value="Edit Customer"/></p>	
		<p>Un-closed Customer Notes 2</p>	
		<p>Exceed Usage Warning No 1200</p>	
		<p>Subscribing Service Change Request Yes 1204</p>	
		<p>Next Page >></p>	
		<p>ADMIN INSTANCE The device window is Used to add and Administer STB device Information. Mac Address details are entered with serial Numbers and customer details</p>	

Fig. 12A

CUSTOMER LIST		Customer 2	
<input type="button" value="Find a Customer by Customer ID#"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>		<input type="button" value="Customer Profile Detail"/> <input type="button" value="General Information"/>	
Minerva Networks	MEDIA DEMON	Customer ID Li Liu Customer Name Work Phone 408-999-8888	
ADMINISTRATION	DEVICE	Customer ID OPSCIT540301 Customer Name Li Liu Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	CUSTOMERS	Customer ID OPSCIT540302 Customer Name Ian-Locke Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	General Infer	Customer ID OPSCIT540303 Customer Name Joe Y Cao Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	Sub Acct & Vault	Customer ID OPSCIT540304 Customer Name Peed Majors Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	Notes	Customer ID OPSCIT540305 Customer Name Jeare-Gecages Fritsch Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	LIVE ASSETS	Customer ID OPSCIT540306 Customer Name Brian Zhou Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	STORED ASSETS	Customer ID OPSCIT540307 Customer Name Bob Even Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	BILLING	Customer ID OPSCIT540308 Customer Name Bill Smith Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	SERVICE & PRICING	Customer ID OPSCIT540303 Customer Name Joe Y Cao Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	System Setup	Customer ID OPSCIT540304 Customer Name Peed Majors Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	LOG OFF	Customer ID OPSCIT540305 Customer Name Jeare-Gecages Fritsch Work Phone 408-999-8888	
	SYSTEM STATISTICS	Customer ID OPSCIT540306 Customer Name Brian Zhou Work Phone 408-999-8888	
		Customer ID OPSCIT540307 Customer Name Bob Even Work Phone 408-999-8888	
		Customer ID OPSCIT540308 Customer Name Bill Smith Work Phone 408-999-8888	
		Next Page >>	
		Number of remaining channels in this view: 10	
		<input type="button" value="Add Customer"/> <input type="button" value="Del Customer"/> <input type="button" value="Edit Customer"/>	
		ADMIN ASSISTANCE The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.	
		Customer Profile Detail General Information	
		Customer ID : PSCIT540301 Name : Li Liu Customer Since : 07/11/1999 Address : 1234 ABC Street, San Jose, CA 99999 Phone : 408-904-1286 (work) 408-999-9999 (home) Email : liu@minervanetworks.com	
		Vault Information: 03/01/00 5:27p rent Movie A rent length:2 weeks Y Amy 03/04/00 5:27p sch Movie B record space 2:00hr Y Parent 03/04/00 5:27p sch Movie B record space 2:00hr Y Johny 03/04/00 5:27p sch Movie B record space 2:00hr N Johny 03/04/00 5:27p sch Movie C record space 2:00hr Y Parent 03/04/00 5:27p sch Movie C record space 2:00hr N Parent	
		Secondary Account Acct 1: Login:Amy Access Level: PG13 Pin: 1234 VOD Limit:\$20 Record:Disable Email:Enable Acct 1: Login:Johny Access Level: PG13 Pin: 1234 VOD Limit:\$20 Record:Disable Email:Enable	
		Adm Attention: <input type="button" value="Subscribing Service Change Request Yes"/> <input type="button" value="Un-closed Customer Notes 2"/> <input type="button" value="Exceed Usage Warning No"/>	
		1202	
		1212	
		1210	

Fig. 12B

CUSTOMER LIST		Customer 3	
<input type="checkbox"/> Find a Customer by <input type="checkbox"/> Customer ID# <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Profile Detail <input type="checkbox"/> General Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Search by <input type="checkbox"/> 1		Name: Li Liu Customer ID: PSCIT540301 Customer Since 07/1/1999 Address: 1234 ABC Street, San Jose, CA 9999 Phone: 408-904-1286(work) 408-999-9999(home) Email: liu@minervanetworks.com	
<input type="checkbox"/> Customer ID <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Name <input type="checkbox"/> Work Phone		<input type="checkbox"/> Customer Notes	
<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540301 Li Liu 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540302 Ian-Locke 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540303 Joe Y Cao 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540304 Peed Majors 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540305 Jeare-Gecages Fritsch 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540306 Brian Zhou 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540307 Bob Even 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540308 Bill Smith 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540303 Joe Y Cao 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540304 Peed Majors 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540305 Jeare-Gecages Fritsch 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540306 Brian Zhou 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540307 Bob Even 408-999-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540308 Bill Smith 408-999-8888		<input type="checkbox"/> Note IK CreateDate Short Description Creator Status <input type="checkbox"/> 123 12/12/1999 Complain reception quality Allen open <input type="checkbox"/> 124 12/13/1999 Allen Called back Allen Progress <input type="checkbox"/> 125 12/14/1999 Customer Called back ask for credit John Progress <input type="checkbox"/> 126 12/16/1999 Allen call to Account ask prove Allen Progress <input type="checkbox"/> 127 12/16/1999 Account Dept credit a \$2.56 rebate Mary Progress <input type="checkbox"/> 128 12/17/1999 Allen called customer, customer is happy Allen Close <input type="checkbox"/> 129	
<input type="checkbox"/> LIVE ASSETS <input type="checkbox"/> STORED ASSETS <input type="checkbox"/> BILLING <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE & PRICING <input type="checkbox"/> System Setup <input type="checkbox"/> LOG OFF		Desc: Customer called on 12/12/1999 to complain Their reception of vod "America Beauty". They Want a answer by this Friday.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Next Page >>		Number of remaining channels in this view: 10 1202	
<input type="checkbox"/> Add Customer <input type="checkbox"/> Del Customer <input type="checkbox"/> Edit Customer		Admin Attention: <input type="checkbox"/> Subscribing Service Change Request Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Un-closed Customer Notes 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Exceed Usage Warning No	
ADMIN ASSISTANCE The device window is Used to add and Administer STB device Information. Mac Address details are entered with serial Numbers and customer details			

Fig. 12C

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CUSTOMER LIST		Customer 4	
<input type="checkbox"/> Find a Customer by Customer ID# <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="button" value="Add Customers"/>	
<input type="text" value="1"/> Search <input type="button" value="Search"/>		<input type="text" value="First Name"/> <input type="text" value="Middle Name"/> <input type="text" value="Last Name"/>	
<input type="text" value="Customer ID"/> <input type="text" value="Customer Name"/>		<input type="text" value="Work Phone"/> <input type="text" value="Street"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540301"/> <input type="text" value="LI Liu"/>		<input type="text" value="City"/> <input type="text" value="San Jose"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540302"/> <input type="text" value="Ian-Locke"/>		<input type="text" value="State"/> <input type="text" value="CA"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540303"/> <input type="text" value="Joe Y Cao"/>		<input type="text" value="Work"/> <input type="text" value="408-999-8888"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540304"/> <input type="text" value="Peed Majors"/>		<input type="text" value="Email"/> <input type="text" value="liu@minervanetworks.com"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540305"/> <input type="text" value="Jeare-Gecages Fritsch"/>		<input type="text" value="Login"/> <input type="text" value="Social Security No."/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540306"/> <input type="text" value="Brian Zhou"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> Required <input type="text" value="Security No."/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540307"/> <input type="text" value="Bob Even"/>		<input type="text" value="Credit Date"/> <input type="text" value="Override Credit Date"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540308"/> <input type="text" value="Bill Smith"/>		<input type="text" value="Expire Date"/> <input type="text" value="Prove By"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540303"/> <input type="text" value="Joe Y Cao"/>		<input type="text" value="Credit Rate"/> <input type="text" value="Credit Card Type"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540304"/> <input type="text" value="Peed Majors"/>		<input type="text" value="Payment Method"/> <input type="text" value="Card No."/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540305"/> <input type="text" value="Jeare-Gecages Fritsch"/>		<input type="text" value="Card Hold Name"/> <input type="text" value="Expiration Date"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540306"/> <input type="text" value="Brian Zhou"/>		<input type="text" value="Status"/> <input type="checkbox"/> N	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540307"/> <input type="text" value="Bob Even"/>		<input type="text" value="Cust ID"/> <input type="text" value="Login asda"/>	
<input type="text" value="OPSCIT540308"/> <input type="text" value="Bill Smith"/>		<input type="text" value="Passwd"/> <input type="text" value="Pin 1234"/>	
<input type="button" value="Next Page >"/>		<input type="text" value="wd"/> <input type="text" value="Effective Date"/>	
<input type="text" value="SYSTEM STATISTICS"/>		<input type="text" value="Select Service Package"/> <input type="text" value="Expire Date"/>	
Customers 1834 Video Stored 573hrs Live Channels 85 Bandwidth 4.3Gbs		<input type="text" value="Cust Bronze"/> <input type="text" value="Customize Service"/>	
Number of remaining channels in this view: 10			
1202			
1232			
1230			
1234			
Fig. 12D			
802			

CUSTOMER LIST		Customer 5	
Minerva Networks	Find a Customer by	Customer ID# <input type="text"/>	Add Customers
MEDIA DEMON	Search by <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>	NAME: <input type="text"/> First <input type="text"/> Middle <input type="checkbox"/> Last <input type="text"/>	ADDRESS: Street <input type="text"/> 1234 ABC Street <input type="checkbox"/> Street City <input type="text"/> San Jose <input type="checkbox"/> State CA Work <input type="text"/> 408-998-8888 <input type="checkbox"/> Home <input type="checkbox"/>
ADMINISTRATION	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540301	Li Liu	Email: <input type="text"/> lili@minervanetworks.co
DEVICE	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540302	Ian-Locke	Social: <input type="text"/> 999-99-9999 Security No: <input type="text"/> 999-99-9999 Effective Date: <input type="text"/>
CUSTOMERS	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540303	Joe Y Cao	Expire Date: <input type="text"/>
General Info	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540304	Peed Majors	Override Credit: <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Rate: <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> CreditRate <input type="checkbox"/> Prove By <input type="text"/> Payment Method: <input type="text"/>
Sub Acct & Vault	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540305	Jeare-Gecages Fritsch	Credit Card Type: <input type="text"/> Expiration: <input type="text"/>
Notes	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540306	Brian Zhou	Card Hold: <input type="checkbox"/> Name: <input type="text"/>
LIVE ASSETS	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540307	Bob Even	Status: <input type="checkbox"/> N <input type="text"/>
STORED ASSETS	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540308	Bill Smith	Cust ID: <input type="text"/> PSCIT540301 Login: <input type="text"/> asda Pass: <input type="text"/> adasd <input type="checkbox"/> wd <input type="checkbox"/> PIn 1234
BILLING	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540309	Joe Y Cao	Effective Date: <input type="text"/> 12/15/1999 <input type="checkbox"/> Expire Date <input type="checkbox"/> Internet Access <input type="checkbox"/> Record Duration <input type="checkbox"/> 3 hrs Pause TV: <input type="checkbox"/> Basic Sports <input type="checkbox"/> HBO <input type="checkbox"/> HBO
SERVICE & PRICING	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540304	Peed Majors	Services: <input type="checkbox"/> Live Channels <input type="checkbox"/> Custom Service Next Page >>
System Setup	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540305	Jeare-Gecages Fritsch	1242
LOG OFF	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540306	Brian Zhou	1240
SYSTEM STATISTICS	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540307	Bob Even	1202
	<input type="checkbox"/> PSCIT540308	Bill Smith	802
	Customers 1834	Video Stored 573hrs	Number of remaining channels in this view: 10
	Live Channels 85	Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s	
	ADMIN ASSISTANCE The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.		

Fig. 12E

1240

1242

802

1244

ADD

DONE

CUSTOMER LIST		Customer 6	
<input type="button" value="Find a Customer by Customer ID#"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>		<input type="button" value="Edit Selected Customers"/>	
<input type="button" value="Search by 1"/>		<input type="checkbox"/> General Information	
		Login <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Required <input type="checkbox"/> First <input type="text"/> Liu Middle <input type="text"/> Liu Last <input type="text"/> Liu	
		Street <input type="text"/> 1234 ABC Street City <input type="text"/> San Jose State <input type="text"/> CA Work <input type="text"/> 408-999-8888 Home <input type="text"/> Email <input type="text"/> Liu@minervantworks.co Social <input type="text"/> 999-99-9999 Security No <input type="text"/> 999-99-9999	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Account Information: AccountStatus: N <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
		Effective <input type="text"/> Expire <input type="text"/> Date <input type="text"/> Credit <input type="checkbox"/> CreditRate <input type="text"/> Credit Card <input type="text"/> Type <input type="text"/> Payment <input type="text"/> Method <input type="text"/> Card No: <input type="text"/> Expiration <input type="text"/> Card Hold <input type="text"/> Name <input type="text"/>	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Service Information: Current <input type="text"/> Subscription Service Package: undefined Service Description <input type="text"/>	
		Request New Service Description Customized Service Includes: Live Channels: Basic, HBO, Media on Demand Package: VOD Package 1, Pause TV Duration: 20hrs Internet Access Enabled	
		Request Date <input type="text"/> 03/15/2000 Request Effective Date <input type="text"/> 04/01/2000 Approve <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CANCEL <input type="text"/> UNCHANGE <input type="text"/> DONE	
Number of remaining channels in this view: 10 1202			
ADMIN ASSISTANCE The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details			
802			

Fig. 12F

1250

802

CUSTOMER LIST		Customer 7																																									
<input type="checkbox"/> Find a Customer by Customer ID# <input type="text"/> <input type="button"/> Search by <input type="text"/> <input type="button"/> Search		<input type="button"/> Edit Selected Customers																																									
General Information <table border="1"> <tr><td>Customer ID:</td><td>PSCIT540301</td><td>Name:</td><td>Li Liu</td></tr> <tr><td>Customer Since:</td><td>07/11/1999</td><td>Customer ID:</td><td>PSCIT540301</td></tr> <tr><td>Address:</td><td>1234 ABC Street, San Jose, CA 9999</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Phone:</td><td>408-904-1286(work)</td><td>Phone:</td><td>408-999-9999(home)</td></tr> <tr><td>Email:</td><td>liu@minnevannetworks.com</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>				Customer ID:	PSCIT540301	Name:	Li Liu	Customer Since:	07/11/1999	Customer ID:	PSCIT540301	Address:	1234 ABC Street, San Jose, CA 9999			Phone:	408-904-1286(work)	Phone:	408-999-9999(home)	Email:	liu@minnevannetworks.com																						
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Phone:	408-904-1286(work)	Phone:	408-999-9999(home)																																								
Email:	liu@minnevannetworks.com																																										
Vault Information <table border="1"> <tr><td>03/01/00 5:27p</td><td>rent Movie A</td><td>length 2 weeks</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie B</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie C</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie D</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie E</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie F</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie G</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie H</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>Y</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie I</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>N</td></tr> <tr><td>03/04/00 5:27p</td><td>sch Movie J</td><td>record space 2:00hr</td><td>Parent</td></tr> </table>				03/01/00 5:27p	rent Movie A	length 2 weeks	Y	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie B	record space 2:00hr	Y	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie C	record space 2:00hr	Y	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie D	record space 2:00hr	Y	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie E	record space 2:00hr	Y	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie F	record space 2:00hr	N	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie G	record space 2:00hr	Y	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie H	record space 2:00hr	Y	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie I	record space 2:00hr	N	03/04/00 5:27p	sch Movie J	record space 2:00hr	Parent
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LOG OFF																																											
SYSTEM STATISTICS <table border="1"> <tr><td>Customers</td><td>1834</td></tr> <tr><td>Video Stored</td><td>573hrs</td></tr> <tr><td>Live Channels</td><td>85</td></tr> <tr><td>Bandwidth</td><td>4.3Gb/s</td></tr> </table>				Customers	1834	Video Stored	573hrs	Live Channels	85	Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s																																
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ADMIN ASSISTANCE <p>The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.</p>																																											

Fig. 12G

1260

802

 CANCEL UNCHANGE DONE
 DEL ACCT DEL VAULT

Number of remaining channels in this view:10

1202

 Vault Information
 1262
 Amy PassWord Pin 1234
 Access VDD Limit Nvod Limit
 Record Email Internet

CUSTOMER LIST		Customer 8																																									
<input type="button" value="Find a Customer by Customer ID#"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>		<input type="button" value="Customer Profile Detail"/>																																									
<input type="button" value="Search by"/> <input type="text"/>		<input type="button" value="General Information"/>																																									
		<p>Name: Li Liu Customer Since 07/11/1999 Address: 1234 ABC Street, San Jose, CA 99999 Phone: 408-904-1286 (work) 408-999-9999 (home) Email: liu@minervanetworks.com</p>																																									
		<input type="button" value="Customer Notes"/>																																									
		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Note ID</th> <th>Create Date</th> <th>Short Description</th> <th>Creator</th> <th>Status</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>O123</td><td>12/12/1999</td><td>Complain reception quality</td><td>Allen</td><td>open</td></tr> <tr><td>O124</td><td>12/13/1999</td><td>Allen Called back</td><td>Allen</td><td>Progress</td></tr> <tr><td>O125</td><td>12/14/1999</td><td>Customer Called back ask for credit</td><td>John</td><td>Progress</td></tr> <tr><td>O126</td><td>12/16/1999</td><td>Allen call to Account ask prove</td><td>Allen</td><td>Progress</td></tr> <tr><td>O127</td><td>12/16/1999</td><td>Account Dept credit a \$2.95 rebate</td><td>Mary</td><td>Progress</td></tr> <tr><td>O128</td><td>12/17/1999</td><td>Alien called customer, customer is happy</td><td>Alien</td><td>Close</td></tr> <tr><td>O129</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Note ID	Create Date	Short Description	Creator	Status	O123	12/12/1999	Complain reception quality	Allen	open	O124	12/13/1999	Allen Called back	Allen	Progress	O125	12/14/1999	Customer Called back ask for credit	John	Progress	O126	12/16/1999	Allen call to Account ask prove	Allen	Progress	O127	12/16/1999	Account Dept credit a \$2.95 rebate	Mary	Progress	O128	12/17/1999	Alien called customer, customer is happy	Alien	Close	O129				
Note ID	Create Date	Short Description	Creator	Status																																							
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O127	12/16/1999	Account Dept credit a \$2.95 rebate	Mary	Progress																																							
O128	12/17/1999	Alien called customer, customer is happy	Alien	Close																																							
O129																																											
		<input type="button" value="Status Open"/> <input type="button" value="Status Close"/>																																									
		<p>Desc: Customer called on 12/12/1999 to complain Their reception of vod "America Beauty". They want a answer by this Friday.</p>																																									
		<input type="button" value="CANCEL"/> <input type="button" value="ADD NOTE"/> <input type="button" value="DONE"/>																																									
		<p>Number of remaining channels in this view: 10 1202</p>																																									
<input type="button" value="Add Customer"/> <input type="button" value="Del Customer"/> <input type="button" value="Edit Customer"/>																																											
SYSTEM STATISTICS Customers 1834 Video Stored 573hrs Live Channels 85 Bandwidth 4.3Gbps																																											
ADMIN ASSISTANCE The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details																																											

Fig. 12H

1270

802

1272

DEVICE LIST		DEVICE PROFILE	
<input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="Find a Customer by Serial Number"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="text" value="PWW000"/> <input style="width: 100px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="Search"/>		Device ID: 0 Serial Number: PWW0023G4372 MAC Address: MAC2483473741 IP Address: 274.145.189.146 Switch Port ID: 1 Model: PACE4000 Status: On Device Switch @ On Off Schedule Turn On Date: Schedule Turn Off Date: Assigned Customer ID: PSCIT540301 Customer Information: Li Liu 1234 ABC Street San Jose CA 90000 Phone: 408-904-1286(work) 408-999-9999(home) Email: liu@minervanetworks.com	
<input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="Add Device"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="Del Device"/>		1302 Number of remaining channels in this search: 9 <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="Assign/Edit Device"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="Unassign Device"/>	
MEDIA DEMON  ADMINISTRATION <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="DEVICE"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="CUSTOMERS"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="LIVE ASSETS"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="STORED ASSETS"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="BILLING"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="SERVICE & PRICING"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="System Setup"/> <input style="width: 150px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;" type="button" value="LOG OFF"/>		SYSTEM STATISTICS Customers 1834 Video Stored 573hrs Live Channels 85 Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s	
		ADMIN ASSISTANCE The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details	

Fig. 13A

1300

802

1304

1302

DEVICE LIST		ASSIGN/EDIT DEVICE		Device 2	
<input type="button" value="Find a Customer by Serial Number"/> <input type="text" value="PWW00"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/> <input type="button" value="Search by Serial Number"/> <input type="text" value="PWW00"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>		Device ID: 0 Serial Number: PWW0023G4372 MAC Address: MAC2483473741 IP Address: 274.145.189.146 Port: <input type="text"/> Status: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Off <input type="radio"/> On Click Radio Button On to Turn On Now Schedule Turn On Date: <input type="text" value="06/01/2000 12:00 pm"/> Schedule Turn Off Date: <input type="text"/>		Assign to Customer ID: PSCIT540301 Model: PACE40000 Switch Port ID: <input type="text"/> Status: <input checked="" type="radio"/> Off <input type="radio"/> On Click Radio Button On to Turn On Now Schedule Turn On Date: <input type="text" value="06/01/2000 12:00 pm"/> Schedule Turn Off Date: <input type="text"/>	
Minerva Networks MEDIA DEMON  ADMINISTRATION <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DEVICE <input type="checkbox"/> CUSTOMERS <input type="checkbox"/> LIVE ASSETS <input type="checkbox"/> STORED ASSETS <input type="checkbox"/> BILLING <input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE & PRICING <input type="checkbox"/> System Setup <input type="checkbox"/> LOG OFF <input type="checkbox"/> 		SYSTEM STATISTICS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customers 1834 Video Stored 573hrs Live Channels 85 Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s 		ADMIN ASSISTANCE <p>The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.</p> <p>Number of remaining channels in this search: 9</p> <p><input type="button" value="Assign/Edit Device"/> <input type="button" value="Unassign Device"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Add Device"/> <input type="button" value="Del Device"/></p> <p><input type="button" value="Next Page >>"/> 1302</p> <p><input type="button" value="Next Page >>"/> 1324</p> <p><input type="button" value="Next Page >>"/> 1320</p> <p><input type="button" value="Next Page >>"/> 802</p>	
				Customer Who Need Device <input type="button" value="Find a Customer by Customer ID#"/> <input type="text" value="1322"/> <input type="button" value="Search by Customer ID#"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>	
				<input type="button" value="Submit"/> <input type="button" value="Cancel"/>	

Fig. 13B

DEVICE LIST		Device 3																																																																																																									
<input type="button" value="Find a Customer by Serial Number"/> <input type="text" value="PWW00"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/>		<input type="button" value="ADD DEVICE"/>																																																																																																									
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</tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> 9</td> <td>PWW0023G1234</td> <td>On</td> <td>PSCIT540302</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> 10</td> <td>PWW0023G5678</td> <td>On</td> <td>PSCIT540303</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> 11</td> <td>PWW0023G2468</td> <td>On</td> <td>PSCIT540306</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> 12</td> <td>PWW0023G2469</td> <td>On</td> <td>PSCIT540307</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> 13</td> <td>PWW0023G2470</td> <td>On</td> <td>PSCIT540308</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"> <input type="button" value="Find a Customer by Customer ID#"/> <input type="text" value="1342"/> <input type="button" value="Search by"/> <input type="button" value="Search"/> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="4"> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Customer ID</td> <td>Customer Name</td> <td>Work Phone</td> <td>Home Phone</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> PSCIT540301</td> <td>LJ Liu</td> <td>408-999-9999</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="radio"/> PSCIT540302</td> 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Number of remaining channels in this search: 9

Number of remaining channels in this search: 10

SYSTEM STATISTICS

Customers	1834
Video Stored	573hrs
Live Channels	85
Bandwidth	4.3Gb/s

ADMIN ASSISTANCE

The device window is used to add and administer STB device information. Mac Address details are entered with serial numbers and customer details.

Fig. 13C

1340

802

Serial Number:	PWW0023G4372
MAC Address:	MAC2483473741
IP Address:	274.145.189.146
Port:	<input type="text"/>
Switch Port ID:	<input type="text"/> 1
Model:	PACE4000

Status: Off On Click Radio Button On to Turn On Now
 Off On Click Radio Button Off to Turn Off Now
 Schedule Turn On Date:
 Schedule Turn Off Date:
Customer Who Need Device

Customer		Customer	
ID	Name	ID	Name
<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540301	LJ Liu	<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540302	Lan Locke
<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540302		<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540303	Joe Y Cao
<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540303		<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540304	Reed Majors
<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540304		<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540307	Bob Even
<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540307		<input type="radio"/> PSCIT540308	Bill Smith

1302
1344
Number of remaining channels in this search: 9

57/68

Minerva Networks		CUSTOMER BILLING INFORMATION		Billing1	
MEDIA DEMON		Find a Customer by	Customer ID# <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Search by <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> View Bill on Month <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create Monthly Report for <input type="text"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> May,2000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Create Report		
ADMINISTRATION					
DEVICE					
CUSTOMERS		Customer ID	Customer Name	Address	Outstanding Balance
@ PSCIT540303 Li Liu		1234 ABC Street, San Jose, CA90000		\$30	\$0
OPSCIT540304 Ian Locke		1234 ABC Street, ABBB, CA94050		\$100	\$0
OPSCIT540303 Joe Y Cao		1234 A Street, Mountain View, CA94040		\$200	\$0
OPSCIT540304 Reed Majors		1234 ABC Street, ABC City, CA85858		\$0	\$0
OPSCIT540305 Jean Georges Fritch		1234 ABC Almond St, Los Altos, CA94324		\$0	\$0
OPSCIT540306 Brian Zhou		1234 Shoreline Blvd, Los Altos, CA94043		\$0	\$0
OPSCIT540307 Bob Even		1234 Shoreline Blvd, Palo Alto, CA94043		\$0	\$0
OPSCIT540308 Bill Smith		1234 Shoreline Blvd, Mountain View, CA94043		\$0	\$0
LIVE ASSETS					
STORED ASSETS					
BILLING					
SERVICE & PRICING					
System Setup					
LOG OFF					
Next Page >>		Number of remaining channels in this view:10		1404	
CUSTOMER BILLING DETAIL				1406	
SYSTEM STATISTICS				Enter Correction:	
Customers 1834		Customer ID:PSCIT540301		Code	<input type="text"/>
Video Stored 573hrs		Outstand Balance:\$30		Description	<input type="text"/>
Live Channels 85		Amount Due:\$10		Amount	<input type="text"/>
Bandwidth 4.3Gb/s				Charge	<input type="text"/>
ADMIN INSTANCE				Rent Date	<input type="text"/>
The device window is used to add and administer STB device information.				Dec 31, 1999 3:00pm	\$1.50
Mac Address details are entered with serial				Jan 1, 2000 3:50pm	\$1.50
				Feb 24, 2000 4:00am	\$1.00
				Feb 27, 2000 3:30pm	\$1.50
				Mar 1, 2000 1:00pm	\$1.00
				Mar 2, 2000 1:00pm	\$1.95
				Mar 3, 2000 1:00PM M	\$1.00

Fig. 14A

-1400

802

PSCT Inc Billing Statement (April, 2000)

Customer ID: PSCIT540301 Invoice No:12345
 Outstanding Balance: \$30 Billing Date: April 14, 2000
 Amount Due: \$10 Payment Due: May 10, 2000

Li Liu
 1234 ABC Street
 San Jose, CA90000

Movie Rental:

Movie	Rent Date	Charge
Alien Resurrection	Dec 31, 1999 3:00pm	\$1.50
Copycat	Jan 1, 2000 3:50pm	\$1.50
Cruel Intentions	Feb 24, 2000 4:00am	\$1.00
Platoon	Feb 27, 2000 3:00pm	\$1.50
Gone with Wind	Mar 1, 2000 1:00pm	\$1.00
Movie G	Mar 2, 2000 1:00pm	\$1.95
Movie H	Mar 3, 2000 1:00pm	\$1.00
Movie H	Mar 5, 2000 1:00pm	\$1.00
Movie h	Mar 6, 2000 1:00pm	\$2.00
Movie K	Mar 6, 2000 1:00pm	\$2.00
Movie L	Mar 6, 2000 1:00pm	\$2.00
NVOD 1 Movie: American Beauty	Mar 7, 2000 1:00pm	\$2.00
Movie N	Mar 7, 2000 1:00pm	\$2.00
Movie O	Mar 8, 2000 1:00pm	\$2.00
Subtotal:		\$20.45

Services:

Service	Service Date	Charge
Bronze	Monthly	\$29.95
Live Channels	Monthly	\$4.00
Artists' Specials		\$1.95
Subtotal:		\$35.90
Other		

Fig. 14B

Monthly Report (April, 2000)

Billing3

Li Liu	Customer ID:PSCIT540301 Invoice No: 12345 Outstand Balance: \$30 Billing Date: April 14, 2000 Amount Due:\$10 Payment Due: May 10, 2000
Joe Cao	Customer ID:PSCIT540301 Invoice No: 12345 Outstand Balance: \$30 Billing Date: April 14, 2000 Amount Due:\$10 Payment Due: May 10, 2000
Reed Najors	Customer ID:PSCIT540301 Invoice No: 12345 Outstand Balance: \$30 Billing Date: April 14, 2000 Amount Due:\$10 Payment Due: May 10, 2000
Ian Locke	Customer ID:PSCIT540301 Invoice No: 12345 Outstand Balance: \$30 Billing Date: April 14, 2000 Amount Due:\$10 Payment Due: May 10, 2000
Jean-Georges	Customer ID:PSCIT540301 Invoice No: 12345 Outstand Balance: \$30 Billing Date: April 14, 2000 Amount Due:\$10 Payment Due: May 10, 2000
Li Sasaki	Customer ID:PSCIT540301 Invoice No: 12345 Outstand Balance: \$30 Billing Date: April 14, 2000 Amount Due:\$10 Payment Due: May 10, 2000

Print Report | **Save to file** | **Close**

Fig. 14C

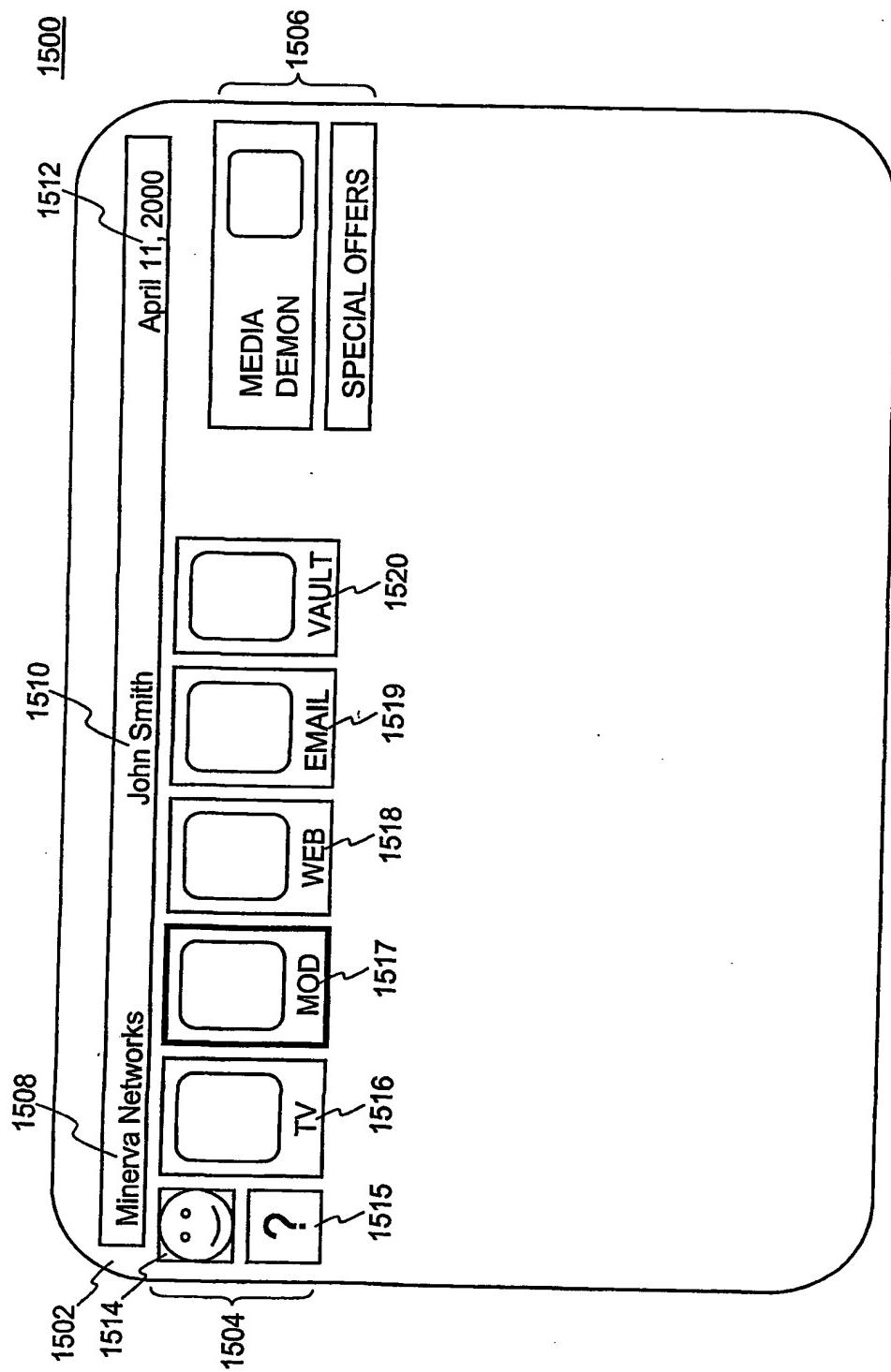


Fig. 15A

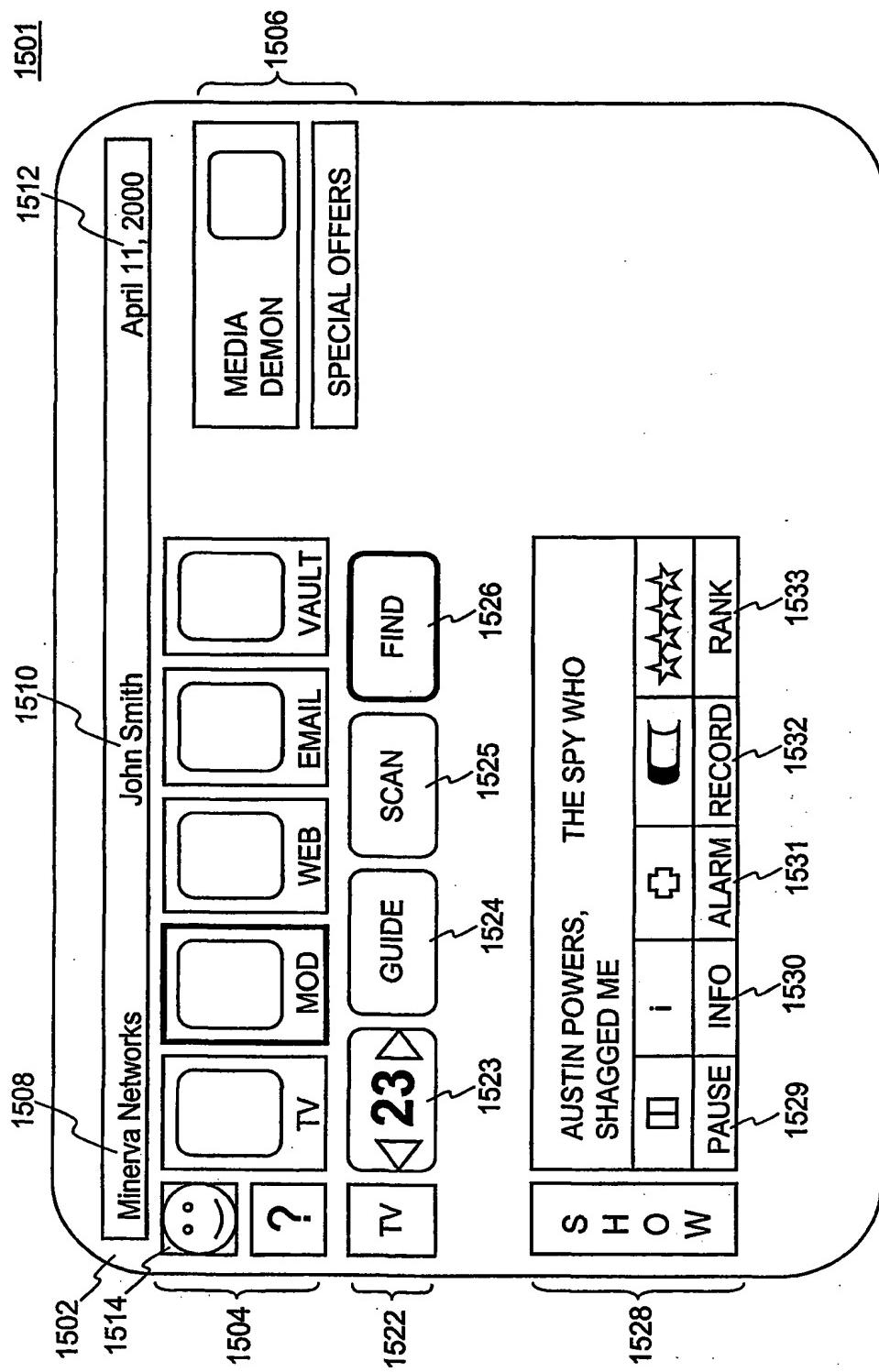
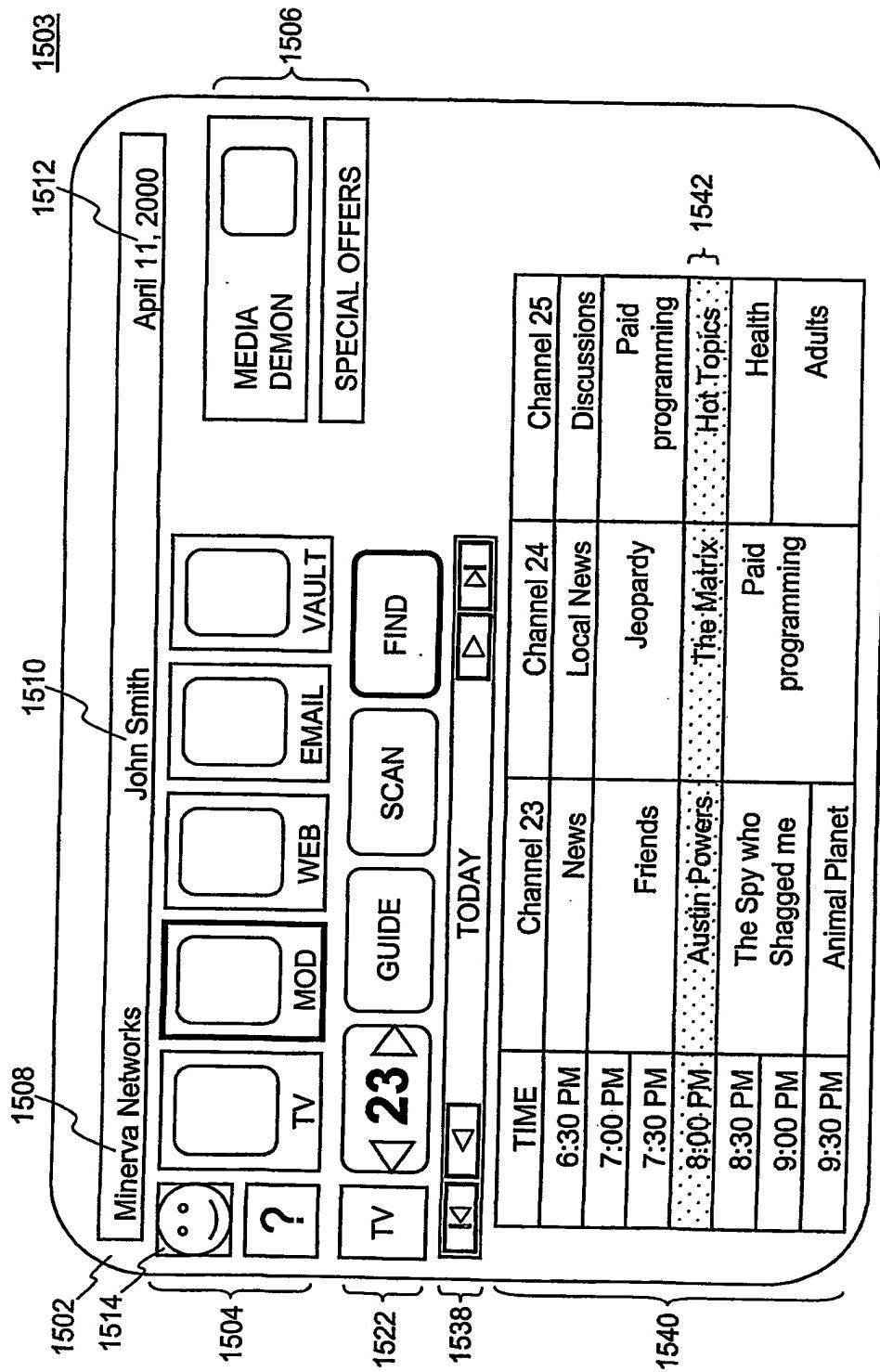


Fig. 15B

**Fig. 15C**

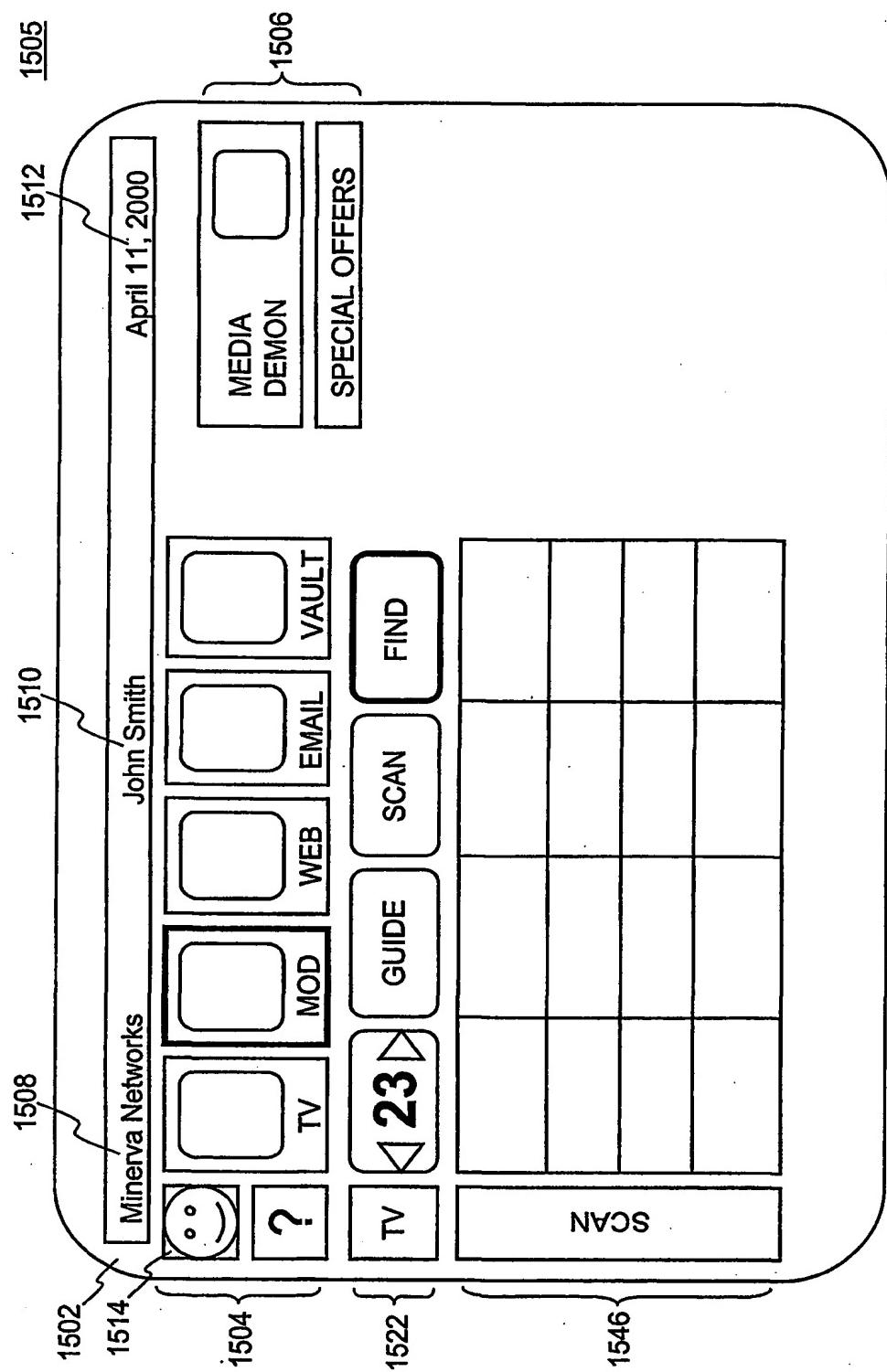


Fig. 15D

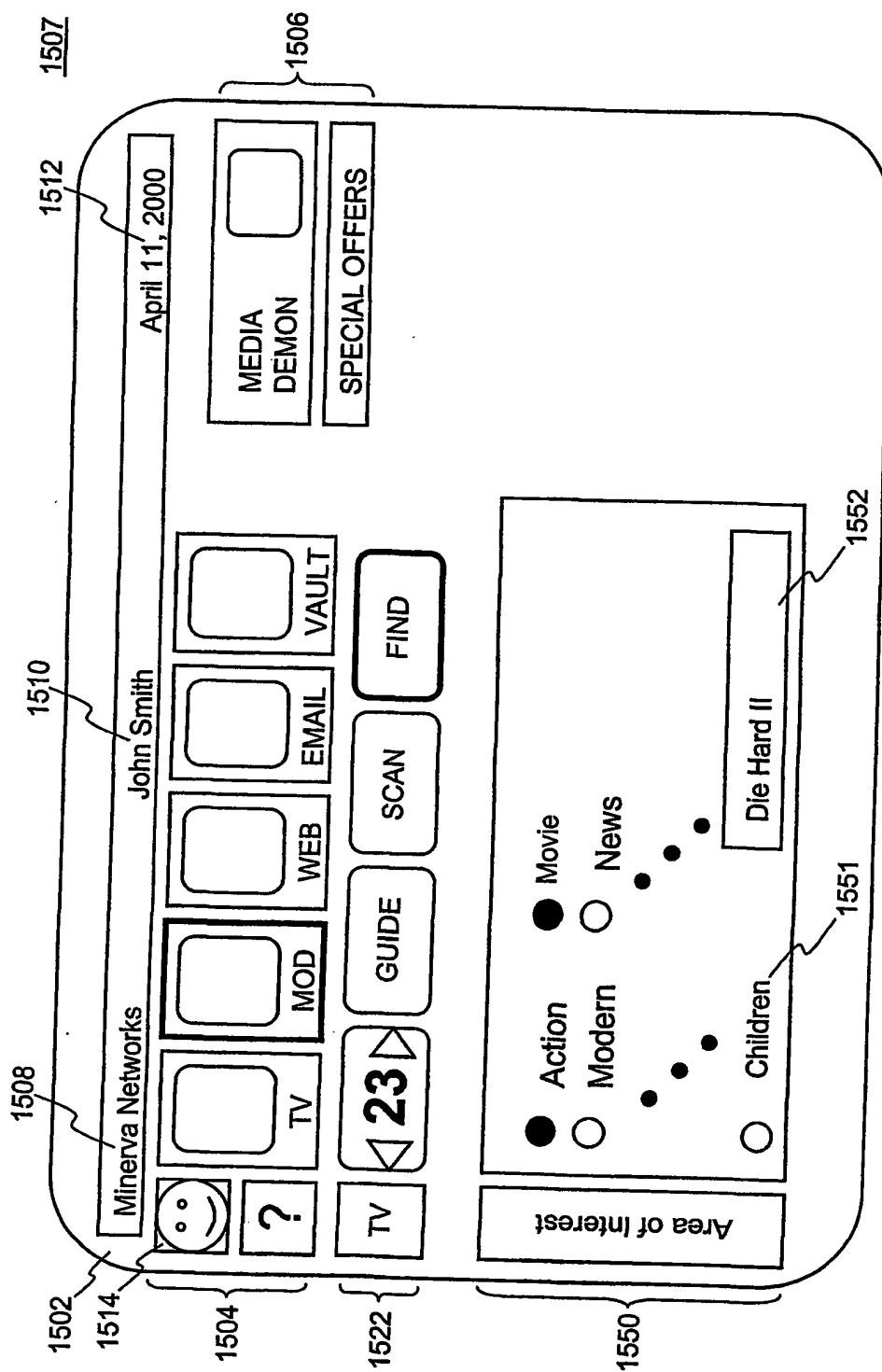


Fig. 15E

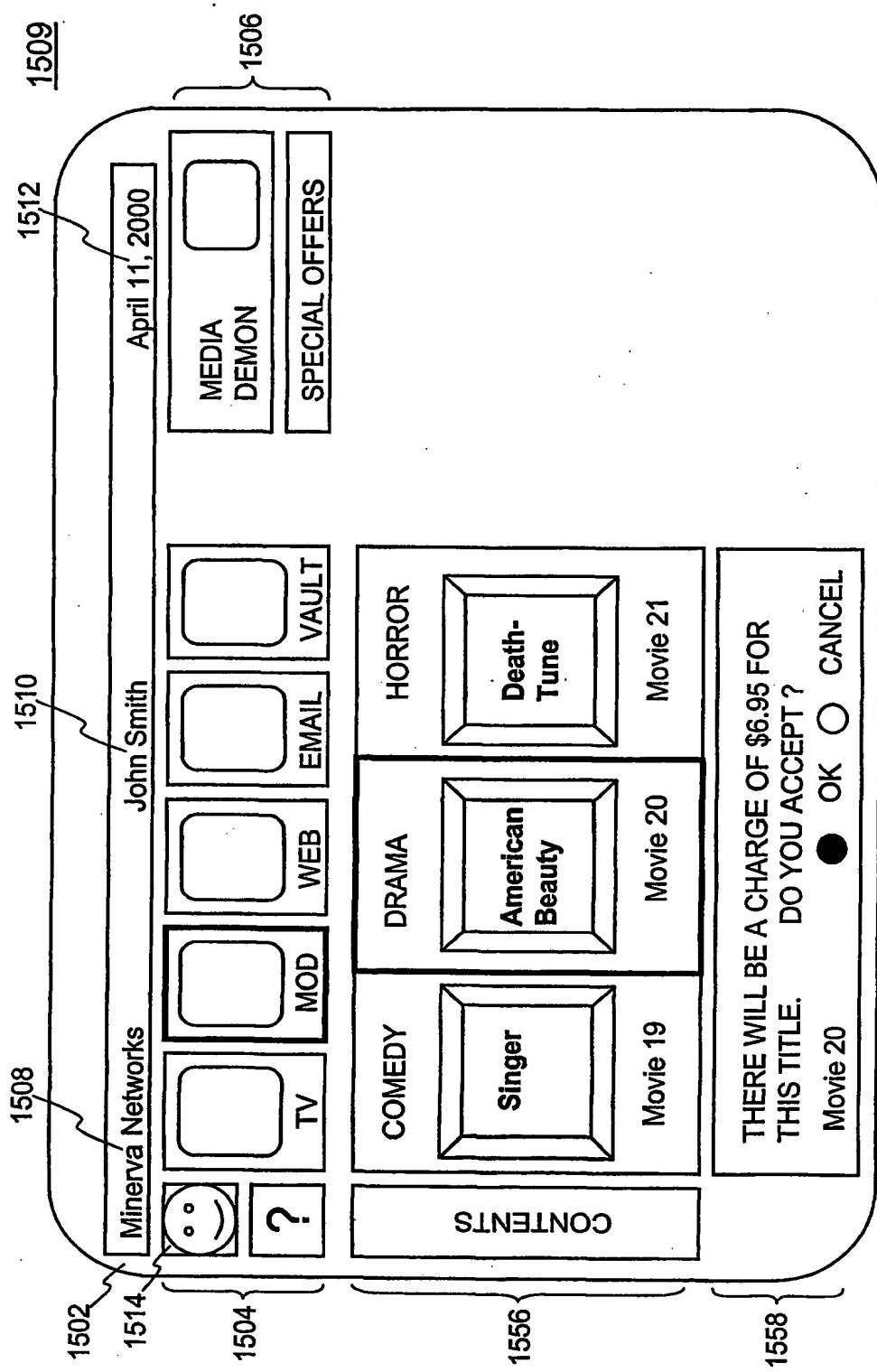
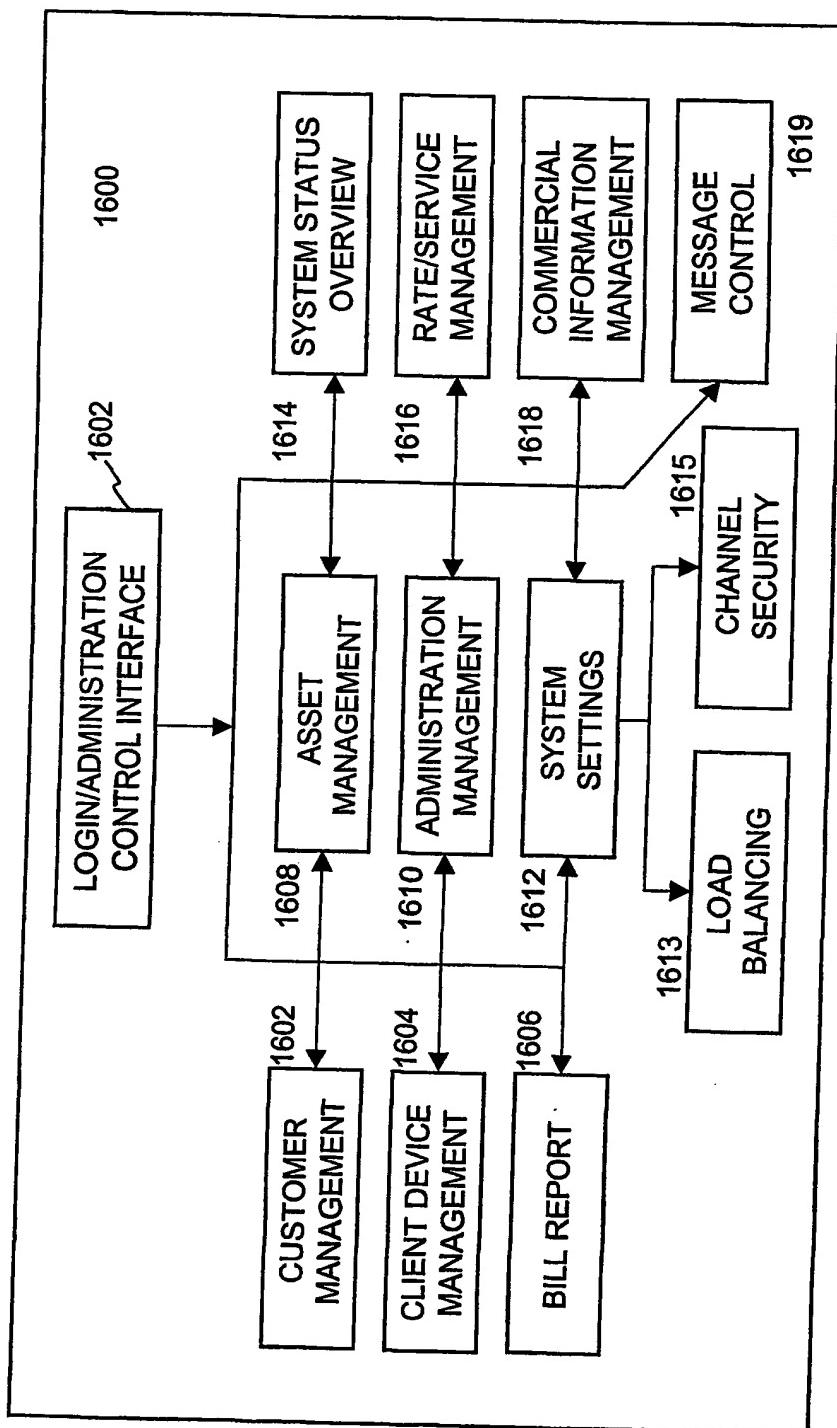


Fig. 15F

**FIG. 16A**

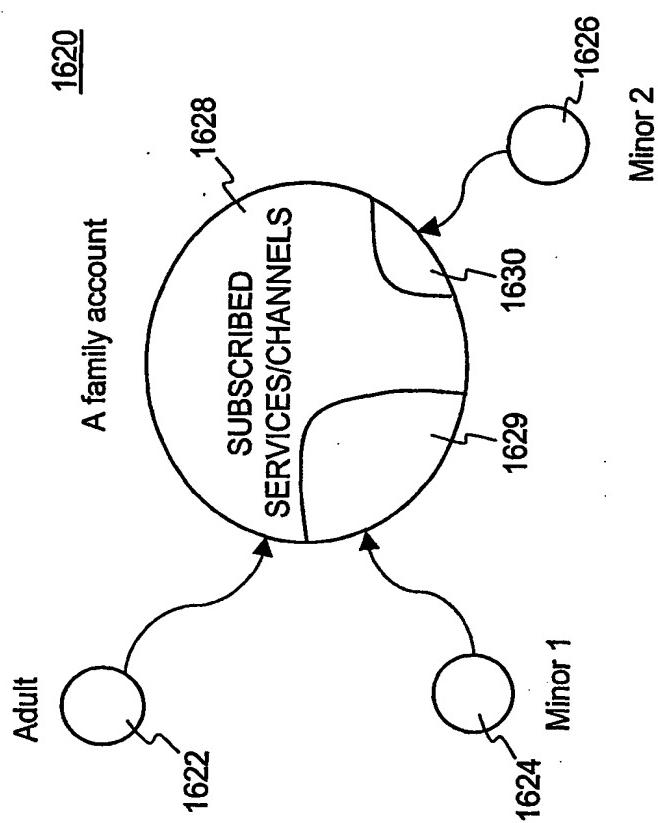


FIG. 16B

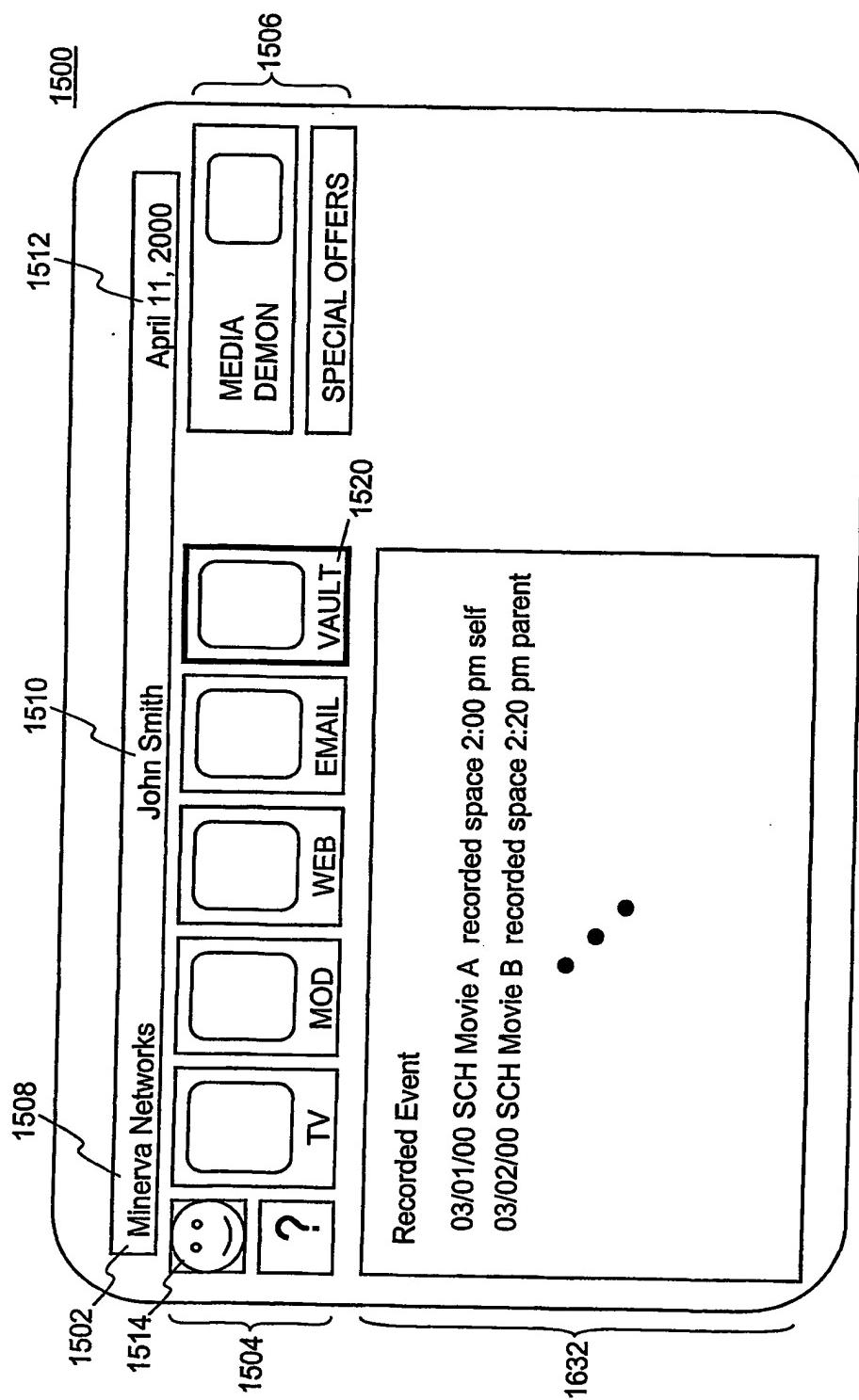


Fig. 16C

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No
PCT/US 01/17438

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 H04N5/00 H04N7/16 H04N7/14 H04N7/173

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 H04N

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	<p>WO 00 30354 A (DISCOVERY COMMUNICAT INC) 25 May 2000 (2000-05-25)</p> <p>page 6, line 28 -page 13, line 13 page 19, line 4 -page 26, line 28 page 34, line 7 -page 36, line 14 page 38, line 23 -page 39, line 4 page 75, line 10 -page 77, line 29 figures 1-6,8-19</p> <p>---</p>	<p>1-9, 11-15, 19, 22-29, 33-36</p>
X	<p>EP 0 909 095 A (DISCOVERY COMMUNICAT INC) 14 April 1999 (1999-04-14) page 18, line 19 -page 26, line 22 figures 1-14</p> <p>---</p> <p>-/-</p>	<p>1,8-12, 19-29</p>

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "V" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

11 October 2001

Date of mailing of the International search report

17/10/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Van der Zaal, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Int'l Application No
PCT/US 01/17438

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 565 909 A (THIBADEAU ROBERT ET AL) 15 October 1996 (1996-10-15) column 5, line 49 -column 6, line 39 column 7, line 35 -column 8, line 34 column 10, line 44 -column 12, line 2	27-30, 37-39
X	US 5 557 724 A (SAMPAT KETAN ET AL) 17 September 1996 (1996-09-17) column 3, line 66 -column 8, line 45 column 13, line 36 -column 14, line 13 column 28, line 66 -column 32, line 67 figures 1-32	1-5, 27-32
X	WO 98 00976 A (SUN MICROSYSTEMS INC ; THOMSON CONSUMER ELECTRONICS (US)) 8 January 1998 (1998-01-08) page 1, line 14 -page 2, line 12 page 6, line 20 -page 8, line 30 page 12, line 25 -page 17, line 5 page 18, line 28 -page 20, line 16 page 27, line 11 -page 28, line 20 figures 1-24	1,18,27, 41-43
A	SMITH G L ET AL: "DESIGN OF MULTIMEDIA SERVICES" BT TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL, BT LABORATORIES, GB, vol. 13, no. 4, 1 October 1995 (1995-10-01), pages 21-31, XP000538877 ISSN: 1358-3948 the whole document	1-43
A	WHYTE W S: "THE MANY DIMENSIONS OF MULTIMEDIA COMMUNICATIONS" BT TECHNOLOGY JOURNAL, BT LABORATORIES, GB, vol. 13, no. 4, 1 October 1995 (1995-10-01), pages 9-20, XP000538876 ISSN: 1358-3948 the whole document	1-43

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int'l Application No.
PCT/US 01/17438

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Int'l Application No
PCT/US 01/17438

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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		JP 2000513891 T	17-10-2000
		WO 9800976 A1	08-01-1998
		US 6275989 B1	14-08-2001